



AMERICAN LEGION POST 18
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www.americanlegionpost18ri.homestead.com



Flying InFormation ~ News from the Post ~ APRIL 2009



DEPT OF RI ADJ Gene Pytka holds a gift presented by Mickey Vadnais on behalf of NAT'L VICE CDR James LaCoursiere, Jr. A "fine" of \$20 is to be donated to Boys State for any meeting Sailor Bear misses. Is there a "bear-napping" in the works???

COMMANDER'S BRIEFING

I'm "surrendering" my space to thank the kids at the **Newport County Boys & Girls Club** for decorating the spring-themed treat bags for our upcoming BINGO at the RI Veterans Home. They did a great job, and we're proud of their volunteer spirit and artistic abilities. Visit www.bgcnewport.org for the Club's summer camp info. This is a perfect example of partnering with other organizations in our community to fulfill our pledge to help and honor veterans and their families.



ripost18legion@aol.com

Christine L. Hayward, Commander

POST/UNIT 18 TO MARCH IN NATIONAL POLICE PARADE

It's been many years since Post and Unit 18 participated in local parades, and archives show Post 18 sponsored an annual 4th of July parade in Portsmouth in the 1940s and 50s. This year, we've signed up to march in the **Aquidneck Island National Police Parade** on **Sunday, 3 MAY 2009**. Muster at 10:45 AM; parade kicks off at 11:30 AM.

George Wardwell is the point of contact for Post 18 and we invite vets from other Posts to march with us. We have a suitable vehicle to accompany our contingent for those who would like to participate, but are unable to walk the whole route which starts near 2-mile corner in Middletown and ends near City Hall in Newport.

A beautiful banner is being made by Unit 18 Vice President Veronica "Roni" Perry. If you want to join our contingent, break out your patriotic garb and contact George at 401.619.3899 or geoedna@aol.com!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Call 401.556.5940 or e-mail ripost18legion@aol.com for more info or to sign up. Volunteer credit available for students/Scouts for both events!

SUNDAY, 5 APRIL 2009 @ 1:30 PM



Post 18 & Unit 18 will host a spring themed BINGO at the RI Veterans Home on Metacom Avenue in Bristol. Volunteers needed to help vets play their cards, call games and award prizes. **National Commander Dave Rehbein is scheduled to stop in and visit!**

SATURDAY, 16 MAY 2009 @ 8 AM

Volunteers needed to help flag/reflag graves at Portsmouth area cemeteries. We will start at St. Mary's Cemetery on East Main Road, Portsmouth at 8 AM, then caravan across the street to Trinity Cemetery, then caravan to Portsmouth Cemetery on Turnpike Avenue until done. Refreshments will be provided.



BATAAN DEATH MARCH SYMBOLICALLY REENACTED BY URI's ROTC CADETS



On April 9, 1942, 75,000 Filipino and American troops were surrendered to a smaller Japanese Army in the single largest surrender of a military force in American history. Forced to endure a 90 mile march, thousands died en route from disease, starvation, dehydration, untreated wounds and execution. For more history, we encourage you to visit www.bataanmarch.com.

At left, the **University of Rhode Island's ROTC cadets from "Cramer's Saber Battalion"** reenact a portion of the Bataan Death March in White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico to raise awareness and funds. (Photo courtesy of MSG Robert A. Ferrara.)

For more info, visit:

<http://armyrotc.com/edu/univri/index.htm>.

Back row: CDT Parker, CDT Haynes, CDT Capasso, CPT Poland, CDT Stein, CDT Pinheiro, CDT Robitaille. Front row: CDT Wholean, CDT Merhar, CDT Cunha, CDT Murphy, CDT Donohue, CDT Madden (MARCH 2009)

ADJUTANT/TREASURER'S REPORT

Let us continue with our Team Theme of Participation, Participation and more Participation! I can think of no better method of increasing our membership than becoming involved with all of the fine work being done at your Post. As we look ahead a few months when elections will be held to select your Team Leaders for the upcoming year, please consider how you can help. Our challenge is to encourage all Post members to step up and take Office or Chair a Committee. We must ensure the groundwork is in place to continue our mission well into the future by training our new members to assume leadership roles. Commander Hayward has initiated or revived many programs that give us visibility at the Local, State and even National level, and we must continue to support the infrastructure in place to keep us viable. If you are unable to take a leadership role, make sure you appear on our list of volunteers for our community events. When we put out a plea for "all hands on deck," please lend a hand! Post 18 ball caps are now available for \$10/each. Get yours now (quantities limited)!



geoedna@aol.com RMC George Wardwell, USNR (Ret.), Adjutant/Treasurer

POST 18 MEMBER ON MEDICAL/HUMANITARIAN MISSION

Post 18 member and retired Navy Senior Chief Tony Cercena recently completed a 3 week mission accompanied by CDR Biadog, USN, and others from Naval Station Newport and local church members. The mission started in the suburbs of Manila, then moved to the southern part of the island and ended in the northern part of the Philippines.

Cercena and Biadog joined over 30 civilian and military doctors, nurses and support personnel who traveled to remote areas treating more than 2,000 tribal patients while under the protection of the Philippine Marines due to roving bands of hostile and lawless groups. Philippine Marine Brigadier General Juancho Sabban—a former Naval War College student—and his wife sponsor Lingkod Timog (Service to the Poor in the South) group which was founded to aid the less fortunate and concurrently combat terrorism by gaining the trust of the people. Lingkod Timog conducts educational, cultural, medical and life enrichment activities to needy areas in the Philippines. For more info, visit: www.lingkodtimog.com. In addition to medical aid, volunteers participated in a nutrition program feeding poor children.



POST EVERLASTING

A family member reported that long-time Post 18 member **George W. Freehan** of Portsmouth joined Post Everlasting on 22 NOV 2008. PUFL member **William Willitts** of Portsmouth and West Palm Beach joined Post Everlasting on 26 FEB 2009. Our hearts go out to their family and friends. We're certain they will be missed.



Post Everlasting on 26 FEB 2009. Our hearts go out to their family and friends. We're certain they will be missed.

POST 18

Christine L. Hayward, Commander/Editor/
Historian/Webmistress
Vincent C. D'Andrea, Sr. Vice Commander
John Mangold, Jr. Vice Commander
George Wardwell, Adjutant/Treasurer/
Photographer
Walter Alves, Sergeant-at-Arms
Ken Williams, Chaplain

UNIT 18

Stephanie Perry, President
Veronica "Roni" Perry, Vice President
Damaris Mangold, Treasurer/Secretary
Edna Wardwell, Chaplain
Christine Hayward, Sergeant-at-Arms

NOTE: This newsletter is printed in a larger format for those who have vision challenges. Please make an effort to speak up at meetings and events for those who are suffering hearing loss due to age or lack of hearing conservation during their service. Any member needing a ride to Post or Unit 18 meetings or events can call 401.683.6148 to make arrangements. This award-winning newsletter has an initial distribution of 855 copies per issue with countless pass-along readership and a web presence. We welcome submission of photos, articles and calendar items from members, other Posts and Units, the Department and veteran-friendly organizations for consideration. Contact: C. Hayward, Editor, 19 Hillside Ave. Newport, RI 02840 or ripost18legion@aol.com. Proud member of the National American Legion Press Association.



3 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF RI CVMA

Post 18 member Frank Pine received a "life member" patch at the RI Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association's 22 FEB 2009 meeting. The Chapter celebrated its 3-year anniversary. At right: "The Old One" and "Battery Bill."



FEMALE FACES OF WAR CONFERENCE

The "Female Faces of War" conference was held March 27-28, 2009 at Battleship Cove in Fall River, MA. The event was sponsored by and supported the YWCA of Greater RI, the YWCA of Southeastern MA and the Women Protecting U.S. exhibit. Conference attendees could bunk aboard the Battleship MASSACHUSETTS during the two-day event which included a reception, screening of the film "Lioness," a keynote address by Brigadier General Wilma Vaught, USAF (Ret.), President of **WIMSA**, and other speakers. The Women Veterans' Network sponsored several attendees.



At left, "Lioness" filmmaker Daria Sommers. At right, Mildred Vento recalls working as a painter in a shipyard in the early 1940's—a real live "Rosie!"



The **Women Protecting U.S.** exhibit at Battleship Cove presents a view of women in wartime to highlight their contributions in history and create a place to honor their service. The exhibit is housed aboard the WWII-era USS MASSACHUSETTS, just one of the many historic naval ships that comprise the maritime heritage museum at Battleship Cove. For more information, visit: www.battleshipcove.org. Great reunion site!!!





DEPT OF RI CONVENTION & BANQUET TO BE HELD 5—7 JUNE 2009

The 91st annual Convention will be held at the Hampton Inn & Suites, 2100 Post Rd., Warwick, RI; phone: 401.739.8888.

FRIDAY, 5 JUNE @ 7 PM—Memorial Service/Awards Night

SATURDAY, 6 JUNE @ 9 AM—Convention Opens

SATURDAY, 6 JUNE @ 6 PM (Social); 7 PM (Dinner)—Banquet @ S.P.R.M. Post #81, PNA Hall (15 Meeting St., Coventry, RI). Post 18 has purchased a table of 8 for the banquet. Post 18 members who would like to attend, please contact George Wardwell at 401.619.3899 for banquet tickets. Cost: \$30 per person; cash bar. Ask George about a discount available for Post 18 members who volunteer and attend meetings regularly! **(Please note: The banquet is not at the host hotel!)**

SUNDAY, 7 JUNE @ 9 AM—Elections and Installation of Officers; Convention closes.



NEWS FROM AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 18

As we await the warmth of spring, thoughts turn to summer vacations and getaways. In these turbulent economic times, entertainment and leisure travel may not be in your budget. If this rings true for you, I urge you to discover things in your own community or within driving distance. While visiting the New York State Museum in Albany recently, I discovered several wonderful memorials to honor our military heroes including tributes to those who served in WWII, Korea and Viet Nam and one for Women Veterans. With Rhode Island, New England and the Northeast rich in Revolutionary and Civil War history as well as a long heritage of defending freedom in more modern times, why not plan a day or weekend trip to visit battlefields, museums and memorials? Send in a picture with caption for inclusion in a future newsletter!

I encourage our members to participate in the various fundraisers and events listed here and on our web site. I'm very proud that we can make a difference with such dedicated members in our ranks.

sperry007@nycap.rr.com

Stephanie Perry, President

AFTERDEPLOYMENT.ORG

The above web site is a mental wellness resource for service members, veterans and military families. Spending time in a war zone may cause problems. There are voluntary self-assessment tools, testimonials, fact sheets, exercises, and self-help workshops on topics such as: adjusting to war memories, improving relationships, sleeping better, seeking spiritual fitness, dealing with depression, anger and stress, helping kids deal with deployment, living with physical injuries and balancing your life. A visit to www.afterdeployment.org may help you transition back to home life!

MOTHER'S DAY EVENTS

The Auxiliary's National President will visit the Ocean State 8-10 May 2009. The **DEPT OF RI AUXILIARY** is collecting teddy bears to be handed out at the RI Veterans Home that weekend. Celebrate the special women in your life by attending the Mother's Day Breakfast on Sunday, 10 May 2009 from 7 AM to 11 AM @ Post 43 (662 W. Shore Rd., Warwick, RI). For more info, contact Kathy Johnson @ 401.941.2486.



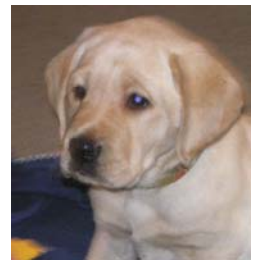
APRIL SHOWERS

The annual April Showers fundraiser will be held on Sunday, 26 April 2009 @ noon at Post 79 (44 Central St., Central Falls, RI) followed by a Ham Dinner. Costs is \$15 per person. Sponsored by the **Children & Youth Committee**, this event promotes healthy lifestyle choices for children and families and features age-appropriate activities, a raffle and refreshments. For more info, contact C & Y Chair Virginia Demers @ 401.575.6579 or Terry Zifcak @ 401.568.4808.



CANINE PARTNER-THEMED WORD FIND PUZZLE

In 2006, NEADS/Dogs for Deaf and Disabled Americans (www.NEADS.org), was invited to Walter Reed Army Hospital to demonstrate the value of highly-trained Assistance Dogs to the physical and emotional well-being of wounded soldiers. More recently NEADS launched



Canines for Combat Veterans, and the RI Veterans Home in Bristol is the **first** veterans home in the US to help train puppies to become Assistance Dogs! Tom Hepburn and Bruce Berry (both veterans) are training "Liberty" (black lab) and "Joe" (yellow lab) for eventual matching. NEADS has already trained and matched 15 soldiers with dogs who assist with balance, retrieval, alert, mobility, and emotional support leading to increased independence. Download full article by John Moon on Post 18's web site!

- WORD LIST**
- CANINE
 - PARTNER
 - INDEPENDENCE
 - ASSIST
 - MOBILITY
 - HEARING
 - BALANCE
 - SIGHT
 - SERVICE
 - DOG
 - COMPANION
 - FREEDOM
 - LIVE
 - WORK
 - PLAY
 - EXERCISE
 - OBEY
 - COMMANDS
 - SOCIALIZATION
 - FEED
 - GROOM
 - HARNESS
 - TRAIN
 - SEARCH
 - RESCUE
 - CARE
 - HANDLER
 - DOOR
 - ALERT
 - CARRY
 - KENNEL
 - LIBERTY
 - JOE

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At left, Ron Aiello and "Stormy" - one of the first Marine Scout Dog Teams to be deployed to Viet Nam (Da Nang, 65-67). For more info about the history of canines and the military from WWI to present, visit www.uswardogs.org! At right, a military working dog and handler pass through LZ "Pinkville" on the Batangan Peninsula, Viet Nam, JAN/FEB 69. Photo by Doug Herier (dherier@yahoo.com).



WELCOME ABOARD OUR
NEW/TRANSFERRING MEMBERS

POST 18

Michael A. Drummey (USA)
HM2 Scott A. Marcus (USN)
Joseph H. Silveria

A few new members are currently deployed. We look forward to introducing them to our membership!

RECENT DONATIONS/VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY

- Unit 18 donated 60—24 packs of Crayola crayons to Operation: Military Kids for "Hero Packs."
- Two Post 18 members donated 4 suits, 2 blazers, 7 dress shirts, 7 ties and 2 belts to Little Rhody Boys State citizens for the required attire for the State Capitol visit in June.
- Post 18 member donated 2 large boxes of assorted new and gently used clothing and paperback books to Operation Stand Down—Rhode Island for the Stand Down homes.
- Unit 18 members continue to purchase items for ditty bags for Little Rhody Girls State citizens.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND JOIN US!

SATURDAY MORNINGS @ 9 AM (Eastern)—Tune in to www.veteransradio.net where you can hear a 1 hour live show on topics of interest to veterans. You can also download archived programs.

TUESDAY, 14 APRIL 2009 @ 7 PM—Regular joint meeting of Post & Unit 18 at VFW Post 4487, 52 Underwood Ln., Middletown. Attendees will be given tree seedlings in honor of the upcoming Earth Day and Arbor Day holidays. Nominations of officers.

SUNDAY, 5 APRIL 2009 @ 1:30 PM—BINGO @ RI VETERANS HOME (details on Page 1)

SUNDAY, 19 APRIL 2009 @ 1:30 PM—DEPARTMENT OF RI TESTIMONIAL LUNCHEON at Post 10 (830 Willett Ave., Riverside). Tickets are \$25 per person. For more info, contact Glen Maciel @ 401.447.4856.

WEDNESDAY, 22 APRIL 2009—EARTH DAY / FRIDAY, 24 APRIL 2009—ARBOR DAY

SUNDAY, 3 MAY 2009—AQUIDNECK ISLAND NATIONAL POLICE PARADE (details on Page 1)

TUESDAY, 12 MAY 2009 @ 7 PM—Regular joint meeting of Post & Unit 18 at VFW Post 4487, 52 Underwood Ln., Middletown. Election of officers.

SATURDAY, 16 MAY 2009 @ 8 AM—FLAGGING OF GRAVES (details on Page 1)

5—7 JUNE 2009—DEPT OF RI CONVENTION (details on Page 4)

TUESDAY, 9 JUNE 2009 @ 7 PM—Regular joint meeting of Post & Unit 18 at VFW Post 4487, 52 Underwood Ln., Middletown. Installation of officers.

MONDAY, 15 JUNE 2009 —FLAG DAY PROGRAM @ Melville Elementary School sponsored by American Legion Auxiliary Unit 18.

14-19 JUNE 2009—LITTLE RHODY BOYS STATE/GIRLS STATE @ Roger Williams University; volunteers/chaperones needed. For more info, contact: Ron Levasseur (ron@riveterans.com or 401.726.2126) or Barbara Golde (barbaragolde@verizon.net or 401.737.2766).

For more calendar items, please visit www.americanlegionpost18ri.homestead.com.

DEPT OF RI 5th ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

On Saturday, 23 MAY 2009 @ 1 PM, Triggs Memorial Golf Course (1533 Chalkstone Ave, Providence) will host a Texas Scramble-format tournament. Cost: \$95 per golfer (includes cart, 18 holes of golf, dinner, prizes and raffle). Dinner only tickets: \$25; hole sponsorship: \$25. For more info or to register, contact Normand "Mickey" Vadnais at 401.828.7186 or 21 Lane B, Coventry, RI 02816. Checks payable to American Legion DEPT OF RI. Help support Legion programs!

