



AMERICAN LEGION POST 18
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Flying InFormation ~ News from the Post ~ MARCH 2009

COMMANDER'S BRIEFING

A recent front-page Providence Journal article highlighted declining Legion membership citing the closing of S. Kingstown's Post 39. Rising utility and maintenance costs coupled with fire code compliance made the Post Home a financial burden instead of an asset. Sound familiar? Faced with the same challenges, Post 18 sold our Post Home last year. Now, instead of dishing out thousands of dollars for insurance, utilities and maintenance on an aging, little-used structure, we are earning interest on our investment. This allows us to continue the great work we do in our "community, state and nation" including important programs such as our Portsmouth High School scholarship award, troop support, RI Veterans Home activities, etc. Our Post and Unit will vote on financially supporting Boys State, Girls State, Operation Stand Down RI, Operation: Military Kids and other worthy causes. In addition, we will continue to flag graves in Portsmouth for Memorial Day, sponsor a flag education program and donate school supplies to students at Melville Elementary School, and provide volunteers in the community. This year, we will demonstrate that we are good stewards of the environment by giving away over one hundred tree seedlings in honor of **Earth Day** and **Arbor Day** in partnership with a local Garden Club. There are many articles in this issue documenting the positive impact we have in our community. By proving that our organization is still relevant, Post 18 has been successful recruiting and retaining members. It's important that our members belong to, network with and support other veteran-friendly organizations. If you know of a need in our community, please share details at a meeting so we can discuss how we might make a difference.

ripost18legion@aol.com

Christine L. Hayward, Commander

U.S. NAVAL SEA CADETS PARTICIPATE IN WAR GAMES WITH NWC STAFF

Pete Pelligrino, Senior Military Analyst for Cubic Applications, Inc. at the Naval War College, sets the scenario and the rules for a war gaming exercise with U.S. Naval Sea Cadets at Quonset Point on 24 JAN 2009. The game was a recreation of the famous battle between the Royal Navy ships HMS HOOD and PRINCE OF WALES, and the pride of the Nazi fleet, the battleship BISMARCK, accompanied by PRINZ EUGEN. On 27 JAN 2009, the Cadets were privileged to tour the visiting USS PHILIPPINE SEA in port at Naval Station Newport. For more info, contact:



David Kerwood, CW02, USNSCC
Commanding Officer, NCBC Battalion, Quonset Point;
President, U.S. Naval Sea Cadets of RI, Inc.
www.riseacadets.org
"Patriots Before Patriotism Was Cool"

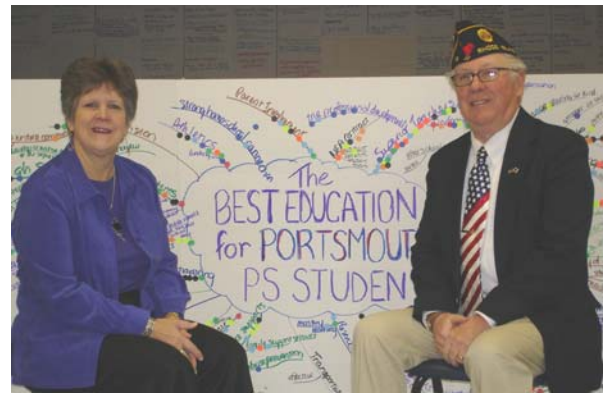
WELCOME ABOARD OUR NEW MEMBER!

POST 18

ANTONIO CERCENA, MSCS, USN (Ret.)

ADJUTANT/TREASURER'S REPORT

Post 18 received an invitation to join several entities during a 2-day strategic planning seminar conducted 9-10 January at Hathaway School in Portsmouth. I volunteered to participate representing American Legion Post 18. This visionary process was designed to review the past 40 years, to evaluate where the Town stood today and to project where we would be in 2019. Participants ranged from Town government, school administration, teachers, PTO, police department, libraries, other community volunteers, drug and alcohol counselors and students. Focusing on several themes, the group outlined the best projected means of providing the optimum learning environment and courses and tools needed to ensure our youth are afforded the best opportunity to excel and compete in the workforce in their adult lives. It was an honor to be involved in this process lauded as a huge step in bringing the community together with a common goal. Once the data is compiled, the consultant will provide a comprehensive report and the participants will be called back for a review. A steering committee will be selected to refine the specific areas deemed worthy of further consideration for the Long Range Strategic Plan. The Plan is only a guide which is subject to the proverbial budgetary constraints. These types of opportunities to participate in projects affecting the growth of the community are exactly what the Post needs to send our message of support and Patriotism. Two Post 18 members were invited to join in the judging of the Portsmouth High School Senior Class Projects. We look forward to participating in this process of their development.



Portsmouth School Department's "Future Search Conference" was conducted by Janice A. Williams (www.JaniceAWilliamsAssociates.com)

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

THIS IS A SHOUT OUT TO OUR FRIENDS AT MIT'S LINCOLN LABORATORY (www.ll.mit.edu). WE SALUTE YOU FOR SUPPORTING DEPLOYED SERVICE MEMBERS!

BOYS/GIRLS STATE TO BE HELD AT ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY IN JUNE

Boys State and Girls State are respected and selective education programs of government instruction for high school students who have completed their Junior year. Participants are immersed in an intensive week in the study of civics that includes guest speakers, role playing and a trip to RI's Capitol. The Program focuses on teaching the rights, privileges and responsibilities of citizenship. Students are chaperoned at all times. **Roger Williams University** in Bristol, Rhode Island will host the program **14 through 19 June 2009**. This is an exciting opportunity for college-bound students to experience campus life as they live in dorms and use other facilities at RWU. Organizers are expecting more applicants than there are sponsors. Due to increased costs, the Girls State program in particular is in jeopardy of downsizing or folding. **All Posts and Units are encouraged to sponsor students or make a monetary donation towards the program so that no applicants are turned away.** Volunteers are needed to assist with check in, to serve as daytime chaperones/overnight watch detail and help students practice campaigning, speech writing, Bill writing, lobbying and parliamentary procedure.



Parents, students, educators and high school guidance counselors seeking more info can contact:

Boys State
Ron Levasseur
ron@riveterans.com
401.726.2126

Girls State
Barbara Golde
barbaragolde@verizon.net
401.737.2766



(Photo by: J. Cerrito,
Sr. Vice CDR, RI VFW)

Above: Newport County Council Navy League hosted a luncheon for Class #74 of the Naval Staff College (NSC) on 30 JAN 2009. L to R: LCDR Juario Marayag (Philippine Navy); Tony Cercena (Navy League National Director); LCDR Kojo Atiyao (Ghana Navy); and Navy Leaguers Anne Huot and Peter Tarpgaard.

Above right: Members of the 281st and 282nd Combat Communications Squadrons who deployed on 10 JAN 2009 are some of the recipients of our "Warming Hearts" care packages (see PG 6).

SPRING CLEANING? RECYCLE/REPURPOSE!

In an annual ritual known as spring cleaning, drawers, cupboards, closets, attics, basements and garages are cleaned and organized. Instead of adding to the public landfill, consider "repurposing" items or donating gently used clothing, toys and household goods to a worthy cause. Giving thought to where you give your items assures that you are truly helping others.

OPERATION STAND DOWN RI—Donations of clothing, outerwear, household goods, linens, tools, yard equipment in working condition accepted. Call 401.383.4730 or e-mail osdri@osd.necoxmail.com.

SALVATION ARMY—Their motto "Doing the Most Good" is an understatement! In today's challenging economy, many of our neighbors will need assistance. Visit www.use.salvationarmy.org for more info.

GOODWILL OF RI—84% of Goodwill's total revenues are used to fund education, career services and other critical community programs. Call 401.861.2080 or visit www.goodwillri.org.

You can even donate a car—often regardless of working condition—to several charities such as the **Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation**. For more info, call 888.414.4483 or visit <http://purpleheartcars.org>. The regional Better Business Bureau site has tips for donating items (<http://boston.bbb.org>). A Valuation Guide can be found at www.salvationarmyusa.org to help value your donation for those who itemize deductions on their tax returns.

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 625 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.





NEWS FROM AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 18

As I previewed this issue, the "Operation: Military Kids" article brought home memories. As the daughter of a Viet Nam era Navy vet, I know what it's like to miss a deployed family member. Sometimes they're gone for an extended period, and you worry that they won't come home. My mom always helped us make cards and draw pictures to include in care packages that my Dad would share with fellow sailors. I recall waiting for his ship to dock, scanning the decks lined with sailors. It was so exciting to finally find him in the crowd and welcome him home. I don't know if you've ever had the honor of watching a homecoming, but it's quite a remarkable sight! I also fondly remember the support of my Mom's Navy Wives Club members. Thank goodness for friends and neighbors, and groups like OMK to support kids in need of some TLC. I salute all of the children and loved ones of those in our military, as you are also serving our Country in a very special way!

sperry007@nycap.rr.com

Stephanie Perry, President

OPERATION: MILITARY KIDS (OMK)

OMK is the U.S. Army's collaborative effort with America's communities to support children and youth impacted by deployment. Launched in April 2005, OMK has touched 88,000 military youth and provided information to thousands of communities across the country. RI joined the program in November 2008. OMK provides "Ready, Set, Go!" training for youth workers, educators, counselors and community service agencies on military culture, the deployment cycle, and much more with the intent of increasing understanding of the unique issues facing military youth. Resources include: **Speak Out for Military Kids** (helps foster community support for the sacrifices made by military families and helps youth develop leadership, research, organization and public speaking skills); **Hero Packs** (knapsacks filled with a age-appropriate items from OMK partner agencies for military kids as a "Thank You" for the sacrifices they make while a parent is deployed); and **Mobile Tech Labs** (digital cameras, printers, computer software and hardware, paper, ink, etc. for groups of kids to produce cards, record messages/music to send to deployed family members). "The University of Rhode Island 4-H Program and all of our local partners feel it's important to support these Rhode Island children—our children—during the difficult deployment process," said Kristy Stone Horan. The American Legion is a national OMK partner! We encourage you to visit www.operationmilitarykids.org for more info.



PHOTO CREDIT: LAURA PATON

RI POINT OF CONTACT:

Kristina Stone Horan

P: 401.874.2959

E: kstone@etal.uri.edu



The RI Chapter of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association conducted its Annual Christmas Donation drive to the RI Veterans Home in Bristol. In addition to the regular items such as fleece throws, board games, gift certificates, cards, and other comfort items, the Chapter donated a much needed tri-cycle to the Physical Therapy Department. Throughout the month of December, the Chapter dropped off hundreds of Christmas cards to the Veterans Hospital and Vet Centers throughout the State, finishing up with a Toys for Tots donation. Submitted by: Andrew J. Martel, RI CVMA Chapter Commander

WORD LIST

**ENVIRONMENT
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GREEN
TECHNOLOGY
GLOBAL
WIND
SOLAR
NUCLEAR
POWER
HYDRO
LAND FILL
GAS
ELECTRIC
COAL
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EMISSIONS
CARBON
TREES
FUEL
PANEL
CLIMATE
CONSUMER
AUTO
DIESEL
TRASH
WASTE
WATER
POLLUTION
AIR**

ENVIRONMENT THEMED WORD FIND PUZZLE

The US Environmental Protection Agency has resources for students, educators, citizens, scientists, governments and businesses on their web site (www.epa.gov). You can search for power and watershed info for your area; take a quiz; learn about career options, conservation, recycling, pollution prevention, air quality, etc. The "Protect the Environment" section is full of useful tips for everything from your home and garden to your school or workplace. (Puzzle by Kevin T. Beck, URI Freshman)



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BOOK REVIEW: RULE NUMBER TWO by Dr. Heidi Kraft

"There are two rules of war. Rule number one is that young men die. Rule number two is that doctors can't change rule number one."

(excerpt from a M*A*S*H script)

Being an avid fan of the 4077th, I have to admit it was the title that grabbed my attention. It was the writing that kept it. I was glad to learn that mental health professionals are serving alongside medical personnel taking care of the wounded, caregivers, and often guilt-ridden survivors in war zones. Dr. Kraft was deployed to Iraq, leaving a husband and twin infants behind along with a supportive family. Stories of heroism and bravery are sadly riddled with the resulting tragedy and loss. Long hours in sleep-deprived environments are guided by instincts and training, yet nothing quite prepares you for the emotional roller-coaster. You will gain a new-found appreciation for the small things we all take for granted and for the bigger things that make us human and humane.

RULE NUMBER TWO

Lessons I Learned in a Combat Hospital

DR. HEIDI SQUIER KRAFT



www.rulenumbertwo.com

"WARMING HEARTS" TROOP SUPPORT PROJECT A SUCCESS



On 24 JAN 2009, 25 volunteers from **BankNewport**, **Ocean Point Insurance** and **Post 18** and **Unit 18** gathered to sort bins and box up 100 care packages for deployed troops. The **Middletown Post Office** picked up 47 packages to be mailed that day (BankNewport graciously paid for the postage!). Eleven more packages were mailed later that week. 42 packages are being brought to the Family Support Group of the RI Air National Guard for family members to send to the recently deployed

281st/282nd Combat Communications Squadrons. Final instructions from the Commander to the volunteers: "When your friends and co-workers ask you what you did this weekend, I hope that you won't say, I **HAD TO** help box care packages for the troops. Instead, I hope you'll say, I **GOT TO** help box care packages for the troops, because it is an honor and a privilege to support our men and women in uniform." We'd like to thank BankNewport for sponsoring the collection drive, the community for responding so generously (especially To The Fallen Records, Newport Daily News, the scarf knitter and those who made cards), and 3rd County CDR Erik Michaud and his wife Lorraine and all other volunteers for joining the assembly line. God bless our troops!



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, 10 MARCH 2009 @ 7 PM—Regular joint meeting of Post & Unit 18 at VFW Post 4487, 52 Underwood Ln., Middletown. **REMINDER: NO MEETING/DARK IN FEBRUARY!**

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.

WEDNESDAY, 22 APRIL 2009—EARTH DAY

FRIDAY, 24 APRIL 2009—ARBOR DAY

MONDAY, 15 JUNE 2009—Portsmouth High School Scholarship Awards (by invitation only)

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

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