



AMERICAN LEGION POST 18
PO Box 307 (Mailing Address)
Portsmouth, RI 02871
Phone: 401.683.6148
www.americanlegionpost18ri.homestead.com



Flying InFormation ~ News from the Post ~ NOV/DEC 2008

COMMANDER'S BRIEFING

How to Spot a Veteran: The proud WWII veteran holding Old Glory at the annual Veterans Day celebration in your town would be a sure bet. But there are many veterans in our communities. The insurance agent, mail carrier, dentist, clerk, fire fighter, retired neighbor, church usher, coach, teacher...many of our fellow citizens have served our great Country. With the newly enacted "Still Serving" legislation that authorizes veterans to salute the Flag even when out of uniform and uncovered, you might be surprised to learn who is a veteran when the National Anthem is played or the Flag is hoisted or passed. Ask any veteran about their service and you're likely to hear how they had it so good or so bad at a particular duty station—the buddy they rescued from a bar brawl in an exotic locale, the time they shared a care package from home with the villagers they befriended, or the regrets they have for making it when their buddy was not so lucky. Whether they served two years or a career, family and friends will attest to the lasting memories military service creates. Recently, I met with groups that served aboard the USS KEPPLER (DD/DDE 765) and the USS DES MOINES (CA 134). They spoke with such fondness of their time together in the service. We share a bond with fellow veterans, no matter which conflict, no matter which branch. You don't need to look too far to find potential members to recruit...our communities are full of veterans still serving!

I'm grateful for the alliance we've forged with BankNewport for the upcoming care package collection. Details below. Members may also bring items to any Post & Unit 18 meeting or function.

ripost18legion@aol.com

Christine L. Hayward, Commander

POST 18 PARTNERS WITH BANKNEWPORT FOR TROOPS

The community is invited to join BankNewport in showing support for the brave men and women from Rhode Island who are far from home this holiday season. BankNewport will host a **"WARMING HEARTS"** Holiday Collection Drive for the troops beginning **Monday, December 1, 2008 through Saturday, January 3, 2009** at all branches located throughout Newport County, Bristol County and South County. A complete list of the items requested by the troops, along with collection receptacles, will be on display at all BankNewport locations during the drive for the community to drop off everyday items (see list at right). Donated items must be in original packaging. What a great way to let those serving know we appreciate their sacrifices! Packages will be mailed in mid-January.

Family members from Newport, Bristol and South Counties in RI are encouraged to sign up their deployed service member to receive a care package. Visit the calendar section of our web site (listed above) for a sign up form or e-mail ripost18legion@aol.com.



CARE PACKAGE ITEMS

- hand-made or store bought cards
- individually packaged snacks (no chocolate)
- toiletries (prefer travel size)
- puzzle books/playing cards
 - paperbacks/magazines
- writing paper/envelopes/pens
- music CDs and movie DVDs
- coffee/tea/powdered drink mix
- spices/seasoning/Tabasco sauce
 - sunblock/insect repellent
 - white socks

Note: No religious items; no pork products; no aerosols; nothing that will melt.

READERS WEIGH IN: CARE PACKAGES FROM HOME

I joined my platoon and noticed guys receiving CARE packages. I wrote my mother and requested some goodies. As we all know, there was a C-Ration meal "Beans & Franks." When my package arrived, I opened it up and the first thing I took out was a can of Campbell's™ "Beanie Weinies!" A good friend asked quizzically, "Your mother sent you C-Rats?" There was a bottle of Tabasco and BBQ sauce that helped dress up the C's. Another time, a buddy (Steve O'Hara KIA 9/1/68) received a loaf of banana nut bread. It had mold all over the outside. We just cut all the outside off and ate the inside. It went really well with some of that old 1943 instant coffee from the C-Rats! Submitted by: Joe Schwartz, Third Platoon C/1/6/198 68/69



CARE traces its roots to the days after WWII when 22 American organizations combined forces to rush emergency food rations in the form of "CARE packages" to war-torn Europe. This is where we get the term care package.

CARE continues to be a leading humanitarian organization fighting global poverty. To learn more about the contents of the first CARE packages and the important work being done today, visit www.care-international.org.

In 1969, I was stationed in DucPho, Viet Nam. During that time period, if you came to or left DucPho, you saw me. Every week my Dad would mail me the Daily News and the local New York paper. It was great! I got to read the NYC news as well as my local news. The best was the Sunday paper that had the comics. After reading the news, I was able to sell the papers for \$1 each (6 days x 2 papers = \$12/week profit). Sunday papers went for up to \$10! Submitted by: DucPhoRick

I was a combat medic with the 1/6 Infantry, 198th Light Infantry Brigade, Americal Division. After a three week voyage across the Pacific on the USNS Upshur, we arrived in Viet Nam in October 1967. The holidays came and went and that's when you felt more depressed. It wasn't pleasant spending Thanksgiving, my 23rd birthday (12/20/67), Christmas and New Year's in the field. The Army tried hard to bring you the mail, no matter where you were, no matter what was going on at the time. Hearing from home usually boosted morale but unfortunately, it wasn't always good news - someone was sick or died, Dear John letters, news of a buddy KIA, war protests. Most of us dealt with it as best we could and tried to focus on good news.

Mail call was daily, but it might be a week or 10 days old, including packages. While it was great to get goodies from home, sometimes it could be an adventure. I got a package that was mailed three weeks earlier and it was coming apart at the seams. It contained Chrusciki (Polish bow tie cookies with powdered sugar), from my Polish in-laws. Needless to say, the heat had melted the powdered sugar, and I would never even have known what they were except for the note in the box. Well, we ate them all—down to the last crumb—and had a lot of laughs. You had to be there to appreciate the humorous exchanges after a long day in the bush. Another package came from my Dad's employer (Exxon). It contained a lot of great goodies to share with the guys. It was very timely, just before Christmas, and helped lift our spirits after a tough day in the bush. Submitted by: Joe De Frank, B, 1/6, 198th LIB, Americal Division, First Platoon Medic

I'm not sure if this is funny or maybe a little gross, but I hope it tickles those of us who can relate. On one of those days when the guys in the "bush" received our weekly CARE packages from home, one of our guys received such a package from his Mom. Inside were the usual requested items: Koolaid™ packs to help us tolerate the iodine tabs we put in our canteens to make the local water potable, paper to write home with (I requested my family write to me on only one side of the pages so I could reply on the reverse sides and then turn the envelope inside out for return mail as writing paper was not a high priority from supply), a Playboy™ magazine or sporting news (depending on how his family felt about his maturity...remember, most of us were still in our teens) and on this occasion a toothbrush and tube of toothpaste (the funny part is coming...I promise). After using his newly acquired toothbrush our brother was confronted by his buddy. "Gee can I use that? I haven't brushed my teeth in months," he lamented. "Sure," was our friend's foolish reply. Well before you could say, "Gee, Joe got a Playboy™ and I have first dibs on the centerfold," every guy in the platoon was in line to use the tooth brush. In a hour or so, we had nice clean tastes in our mouths, but our poor brother now had a toothbrush "shared" by all of us. Now to those of you not used to the harshness of combat duty this may seem gross, but believe me when I tell you that we all shared everything with our brothers because that's the way it was. Can you imagine in this day sharing your personal toothbrush with even your own spouse? I hope this brings a chuckle of remembrance to my brothers. Submitted by: Ted (Doc) Block, 1/6th "B" Co., Third Platoon Medic



Above: CDR Taweesak Saiweaw of Thailand (left) and LTC Khalid Zine of Morocco (right) flank George Wardwell at the **Annual Naval Command College Clambake** at Kempenaar's Clambake Club in Middletown (21 AUG 2008).

ADJUTANT/TREASURER'S REPORT

In concert with the word find theme and in total coincidence, my Great Grandfather and namesake, George A. Wardwell, was the Chief Engineer on two voyages to the North Pole on board the SS ROOSEVELT under Admiral Robert Peary's command. One trip set out in 1906 and the other in 1908. The vessel was constructed on Verona Island, Maine a mere four miles from where I was raised in Bucksport. George must have liked to write because he hand wrote journals of each voyage similar to what I knew as a deck log that documented specific dates, times, events, longitude, latitude and daily incidents. These journals along with 250 glass slides had been stored in a closet for many years. My father often spoke of donating the documents to historical societies or other interested museums. When I became heir to the artifacts, I started looking seriously about where they should be placed for permanent storage and public enjoyment or historical research. I found just the place in the Peary-MacMillan exhibit at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine. The memorabilia is safe in air controlled exhibit cases under 24 hour security protection. Folks interested in this Artic expedition should attempt to visit the museum. My recommendation to each of you would be to preserve family archives and artifacts that may be of significance to researchers or to document life happenings for your siblings and children. Placing them in safe keeping is paramount. Remember, if your home would suffer fire or storm damage, your historical documents will be lost forever.

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

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
 Walter Alves, Sergeant-at-Arms
 Rev. Don Boucher, Co-Chaplain
 Ken Williams, Co-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. Mail to: C. Hayward, Editor, 19 Hillside Ave., Newport, RI 02840 or ripost18legion@aol.com.



Several members attended the Annual Commemoration Service of the 1st Rhode Island Regiment ("The Black Regiment") at Patriots' Park in Portsmouth, RI (24 AUG 2008).



NEWS FROM UNIT 18

I'd like to send a sincere thank you on behalf of Unit 18 to the members of Post 18 for the very generous donation of \$5K. This will help our efforts to support the troops and honor our veterans, and we're grateful for your continued support. Last month, I joined a team for a 5K walk for Juvenile Diabetes, and proudly wore my American Legion Auxiliary poppy t-shirt. The JDRF (www.jdrf.org) is racing for a cure for diabetes, a disease that hits home for my family. I thought wearing the Auxiliary shirt was a great way to show the other walkers that we support local fundraising events. I also made a donation to the recent 5K "Run to Remember" with proceeds going to the Wounded Warrior Project (www.woundedwarriorproject.org), a cause dear to our hearts reminding us that our MIAs and POWs are missing, but never forgotten. So, I encourage our members to wear your Legion apparel (<http://emblem.legion.org>) and join the next local walk or run for whatever cause is important to you. You'll feel great at the finish line, and you can show your community that Auxiliary members talk the talk and walk the walk! A heart-felt thank you to the DEPT OF RI AUXILIARY for conducting a beautiful installation ceremony. We appreciate the continued support of mentors like Barbara Golde and Cathy Camire.



sperry007@nycap.rr.com

Stephanie Perry, President

VOTING—A PRIVILEGE YOU MUST EXERCISE

by guest reporter Tracey Bolton, Unit 18 Member

As I sit back in my chair, I think about the presidential election that is only a few weeks away. I have listened half-heartedly to the candidates during the debates, with more attention put to listening to the recap on the morning news. Watching Tina Fey's remarkably accurate spoof of Sarah Palin attracts more of my interest. Neither McCain nor Obama have gained my support and more importantly my vote, as both candidates and their running mates have good and not so good qualities and beliefs. I do, however, take my right to vote seriously and am proud to be one of four generations of American women who can proudly say they have that right. Learn about your local, state and national candidates, their records and their plans.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, women were considered chattel or the property of their husbands. Once married, they were expected to remain in the confines of the house to maintain the home and care for the family. Higher education and paying jobs were not needed for these responsibilities. In fact, they were frowned upon because it was thought that a woman's reproductive system and her ability to bear children would be damaged in their pursuit. Many women did not agree.

The Seneca Falls Convention in 1848 is considered to be the official start of the women's movement. Women gathered to discuss the rights of women and the injustices they faced. Gaining the right to vote became a focal point of their platform. The Civil War redirected attention from women's rights to the rights of slaves. Suffragists like Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Stanton tirelessly lectured and made public appearances to spread the word for women's suffrage hoping that women and slaves would get the same

rights. Abraham Lincoln, however, thought the rights of slaves were paramount to those of women. Slaves gained the right to vote while women did not. The efforts of the Suffragists did not wane. Parading down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC, the women were greeted with hostility by their opponents and riots ensued. Many women were jailed and beaten. They staged hunger strikes, but their spirits were not broken. In 1920—after 72 years of perseverance—women were granted the right to vote through the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Vote November 4th!

Sr. Commander Vincent C. D'Andrea attended the National Convention in Phoenix, AZ and served as a Delegate and an Assistant Sgt.-at-Arms. Photo by Beverly Burns.





POLAR EXPLORATION-THEMED WORD FIND PUZZLE

The hardships endured by the early explorers of the polar regions are documented in many non-fiction accounts and make for great reading. The early 1900's were ripe with adventure as teams raced to be the first to the Poles and other remote locations. At left, SS ROOSEVELT in the Arctic. Photo courtesy of RMC George A. Wardwell, USNR (Ret.).

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The refurbished mascot recently returned to the Seabee Museum & Memorial Park in Davisville.

For more info, visit www.seabeesmuseum.com.



On 14 October 2008, dignitaries from the DEPT OF RI AUXILIARY conducted installation of officers for Unit 18. From left to right: Veronica Perry, Vice President; Damaris Mangold, Secretary/Treasurer; Edna Wardwell, Chaplain; Christine Hayward, Sgt.-at-Arms/Historian; Cathy Camire, DEPT OF RI AUX; and Barbara Golde, DEPT OF RI AUX. Veronica Perry received the gavel on behalf of Stephanie Perry, President. Congratulations!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND JOIN US!

TUESDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2008—ELECTION DAY

SATURDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2008—ELKS HONOR “VETERAN OF THE YEAR” @ Newport Elks Club; cocktails-5:30 PM; dinner-6:30 PM. Tickets: \$15. Contact: Ginny or Frank @ 401.846.6932.

SUNDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2008 @ 10 AM—POPPY AWARENESS @ Clements' Market, E. Main Rd., Portsmouth. Stop by and show your support for Unit 18's on-going projects!

TUESDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2008—VETERANS DAY

@ 8:30 AM—Meeting of Post & Unit 18 @ Portsmouth Town Hall

@ 9:30 AM—Veterans Day Speech and Wreath-Laying Ceremony @ Portsmouth Town Hall

THURSDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2008—HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

SATURDAY, 6 DECEMBER 2008 @ 9 AM—CHRISTMAS SHOPPE @ RI Veterans Home in Bristol

SATURDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2008 @ 10 AM—CHRISTMAS SHOPPE @ VA Hospital in Providence

SUNDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2008 @ NOON—HOLIDAY LUNCHEON/MEETING of Post & Unit 18 @ 15 Point Road Restaurant, 15 Point Rd., Portsmouth. (Note: This is instead of our regular meeting on December 9th. Invitations and RSVP instructions will be mailed in late November.)

THURSDAY, 25 DECEMBER 2008—MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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



DEPT OF RI AUXILIARY CHRISTMAS SHOPPE

The Department of Rhode Island Auxiliary will be hosting their annual “Christmas Shoppe” on **Saturday, 6 December 2008 @ 9 AM** until done at the RI Veterans Home in Bristol and on **Saturday, 13 December 2008 @ 10 AM** until done at the VA Hospital in Providence. The Christmas Shoppe is an opportunity for the residents/patients to select a few gifts and cards for themselves or a loved one free of charge.

Donations of gift items such as new clothing, crafts, toiletries, books, games, music CDs, movie DVDs, holiday cards, etc. are needed. Volunteers are needed to help display the gifts, help veterans select appropriate gifts, and to wrap and deliver gifts to the wards. Once again, Post 18 will provide a “Santa” for the Veterans Home. To volunteer—even if it's just for a few hours—just show up! For more info or to donate unwrapped gift items, contact Donna Rivet (mzlillie@cox.net) or Jo-Ann Hockhousen (johock@cox.net). Volunteer credit will be given for student/Scout participants.

WELCOME ABOARD OUR
NEW/TRANSFERRING MEMBERS!

POST 18
JEFFREY DAVIS, USA

UNIT 18
TRACEY BOLTON
JAMIE CAPRA
BRITTANY DENNETT (Junior)
ABIGAIL LIMA (Junior)



Volunteers pose after hosting a Halloween-themed BINGO at the RI Veterans Home on 1 OCTOBER 2008.