



AMERICAN LEGION POST 18
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www.americanlegionpost18ri.homestead.com



Flying InFormation ~ News from the Post ~ NOV/DEC 2009

COMMANDER'S BRIEFING

I had the honor of attending the installation of the new officers for Unit 18, and what an auspicious occasion it was! The venue at the Residence Inn by Marriott was grand, the food was delicious and the installation team from the Department Auxiliary did a very nice job. Congratulations to everyone!

Once again, I must encourage more members to attend our meetings. If you haven't paid your membership dues yet, please do so soon so we can meet our goals. Last month, we witnessed two exceptional young adults speak on the topic of Little Rhody Boys and Girls State. Both Patrick and Rebecca did a super job recounting their experiences at the Department and National levels. It was great for those in attendance to hear of the success of this important Legion program. Participation will help us grow. Recently, my wife Edna and I along with our new members Vincent and Peggy Murray and Angela Vars attended a pig roast fundraiser in preparation for the 2010 National Police Parade. We hope to enter the parade again next year with a stronger contingent. Enjoy the holidays with your family and friends!



AMERICAN
 LEGION
 DAY

@ PROVIDENCE
 BRUINS ON SUNDAY,
 22 NOV 2009. GAME
 TIME: 4:05 PM @
 DUNKIN' DONUTS
 CENTER. TICKETS:
 \$13. POST 18 HAS
 TICKETS AVAILABLE
 FOR MEMBERS &
 GUESTS. CONTACT
 CHRISTINE @
 401.556.5940.

geoedna@aol.com

RMC George Wardwell, USNR (Ret.), Commander

USS WAYNE E. MEYER (DDG 108) VISITS NEWPORT



Named for the father of the Aegis Weapons System—Admiral Wayne E. Meyer—this variant of the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer visited in September en route to her commissioning in Philadelphia. She will be homeported in San Diego.



Petty officers sporting the new enlisted uniforms proudly gave a tour of the ship's CIC, dining facility (which features artwork of the goddess Athena holding an Aegis shield), helicopter hangar and crew lounge.

Post 18 members Christine Hayward and Arthur C. E. Perry toured the ship courtesy of our friends at the Naval War College Foundation. Check out www.nwcfoundation.org for upcoming events, some of which are open to the public. We'd also like to thank the crew for their hospitality!



Unit 18 member Lis Mullen, sister of one of the Marines killed in the 1983 Beirut bombing, presents a framed memorial honoring the RI victims—23 OCT 2009.

ADJUTANT/TREASURER'S REPORT

I recently discovered two very valuable resources: www.AllForGood.org and www.iparticipate.org. The sites make citizens aware of volunteer opportunities and allow organizations to post events needing volunteers. There are many categories such as education & youth, environment & conservation, and (drum roll please...) **Support for Military Families**. Our merry band of volunteers is our most valuable asset. I'd like to form a "partnership" with a few other local organizations that would allow us to tap into each other's volunteer forces to help out with seasonal events. This could be a good cross-recruiting tool—like minded people helping out in the community, many of whom may be eligible for membership in the Legion and/or Auxiliary. Many families—including our members—have already or may soon be negatively impacted by the economy. With winter approaching, rising heating costs will force some to make tough choices regarding groceries, medicine and other necessities. There are many programs available to help. The RI Department of Elderly Affairs publishes a **Pocket Guide to Elder Services**. Call 401.462.3000 to request a free copy or visit www.dea.ri.gov. At press time, I learned of a campaign dedicated to the establishment of a national remembrance flag recognizing the sacrifices of fallen servicemen and women. To learn more, visit www.HonorandRemember.org. We'll follow up on this in the spring. Reminder: Veterans Day at Portsmouth Town Hall (meeting @ 8 AM; ceremony @ 9 AM).

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Christine L. Hayward, Adjutant/Treasurer



IN SEARCH OF: VIETNAM WAR MEMORIALS

Retired Master Sergeant Lafton "Nick" Hansen is collecting data on Vietnam War-related memorials nationwide. The memorials can be statues, plaques, dedications, honor rolls, monuments, etc. and their construction can be municipal (public) or privately-funded as long as the public has access to the memorial. Please share info from your area by contacting MSG Nick Hansen, USA (Ret.) at 1630 Susan Rd., Lake Ozark, MO 65049 or nick.hansen@us.army.mil. Have friends from out-of-state? Pass the word to help create a comprehensive list which will eventually be published to encourage citizens to visit these memorials and honor the sacrifices of our comrades.

POST 7 INSTALLED

2nd County Commander George Wardwell installed the officers for Post 7- Newport on 22 SEP 2009 with the assistance of former Post 18 Commander Christine Hayward. Left to right: Leo Ayotte, Commander; SGT John Duchesneau, Sr. Vice Commander & Service Officer; Wesley Neal, Adjutant & Finance Officer; Albert Ginchereau, Jr., Sgt.-at-Arms; Edmund Lopes, Historian; and George Wardwell. (Absent: Jr. Vice Commander Charles Wilson, Jr. and Chaplain Mark Carpender.) SGT Duchesneau is deploying to GITMO. He will be corresponding with the high school senior and JROTC member we are mentoring (Rebecca Weaver) for her senior project on Troop Support.



Be **green** and save Post 18 the cost of production and mailing! Get your newsletter in full color in an easy-to-share PDF format. Subscribe to receive "Flying InFormation" via e-mail. It's free! Send your name and e-mail address to: ripost18legion@aol.com. Membership not required.



2009-2010 POST 18

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

2009-2010 UNIT 18

Edna Wardwell, President
Veronica "Roni" Perry, Vice President
Damaris Mangold, Treasurer
Christine Hayward, Secretary/Historian
Patricia Dennett, Chaplain

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
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Legion Press Association.



Post 18 member and former Navy Lieutenants Bernadette and Greg Cizin welcomed son Gregory Ammon Cizin on 19 SEP 2009. He is the grandson of former Post 18 member and Vietnam veteran Robert Pine and great-grandson of Post 18 member Frank Pine. Congratulations! Ammon was the surname of a fellow Naval officer KIA in Afghanistan.



VETS & ACTIVE DUTY ENJOY FREE ENTRÉE AT APPLEBEE'S ON VETERANS DAY

On Wednesday, 11 NOV 2009, veterans and active duty military may select one of six free entrées at participating Applebee's with valid proof of service. Valid proof includes Uniformed Services active or retired ID card, current LES, VSO card (American Legion, VFW, etc.), photo in uniform or wearing of uniform.



Naval Academy Prep School math professor Joseph Kunicki, NAPS midshipmen and our own Tony Cercena (far right) help CDR Biadog with a "field day"/clean up at the Seabee



Museum & Memorial Park. For more info and pictures, visit www.seabeesmuseum.com.

URI ALUMNI ROTC HALL OF FAME

On 17 OCT 2009, the University of Rhode Island inducted 5 warriors into their ROTC Hall of Fame including MG Morphis Jamiel (60 year AL member; Post 11-Warren) and COL Philip J. Saulnier. All were highly decorated and served with distinction; three were honored posthumously. To learn more about current and past inductees, visit: www.uri-rotc-alum.org (site being updated soon). URI's Army ROTC is hosting a pasta dinner fundraiser on 6 DEC 2009 at the Calabrese Club in Westerly. For tickets, call 401.874.5459.





On 27 SEP 2009, the First Annual CPL Holly Charette Motorcycle Run (The Run for Holly) took place in RI. Members of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association (CVMA), Patriot Guard Riders (PGR), Christian Motorcycle Association (CMA) and others raised funds for a scholarship in



her name. Long-time friend of Post 18 Michael Jackson played TAPS. The colors were presented by the Kent County Marine Corps League. A Cranston H.S. East graduate, CPL Charette was KIA on 23 June 2005 when a suicide bomber ambushed her convoy in Anbar Province, Iraq. To learn more about Holly and the scholarship fund, visit www.hollycharette.webs.com.

At left, Post & Unit 18 members Angela Vars, Tony Cercena and Peg and Vin Murray flank CAPT Neil Parrott, CO of SWOS at the 234th Navy Birthday Ball on 16 OCT 2009.



NEWS FROM UNIT 18



DEPT OF RI AUX President Virginia Demers pins Unit 18 President Edna Wardwell

Our installation of officers was held on 12 September, and it was a great day. Before the ceremony, volunteers helped fill ditty bags for one of our three signature events—the Halloween-themed BINGO. (For the benefit of new members, I'll give you a head's up that we also co-host a "Valentine's Day" themed BINGO in late January/early February and a "Spring/Easter" themed BINGO in late March/early April.) The installation team and several other guests from the DEPT OF RI AUXILIARY and the DEPT OF RI attended. Donned in patriotically-inspired hats, we enjoyed the ceremony, tea party and fellowship. George and I attended a Military Awards Night in Falmouth, MA recently.

We had a wonderful time witnessing seven members from the various branches being honored for outstanding military service. By the time you read this, George and I will be in the midst of our trip taking us to many states in the Union. We'll be "leaf peeping" along the way. Please give the other officers your support while we are traveling. Volunteers needed at the RI Veterans Home on 5 December (see calendar). As the holidays approach, please be mindful of those less fortunate. Let's count our blessings and extend a hand where help is needed.



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Edna Wardwell, President



TOYS FOR TOTS THEMED WORD FIND PUZZLE

Toys for Tots began in 1947 when Major Bill Hendricks and a group of Marine Reservists in Los Angeles, CA collected, refurbished and distributed 5,000 toys to needy kids based on a request from Bill's wife, Diane, to find a good home for a hand-made doll. The mission is to collect new, unwrapped toys October through December for distribution to needy children in the community at Christmas. The point of contact for RI is GySgt Jay R. McMullen at 401.461.2473 or jay.mcmullen@usmc.mil. For a complete history or to learn how you or your organization can donate or host a drive or to request a toy for a needy child, visit www.toysfortots.org. Post 18 "passed the hat" at our October meeting and collected **\$72** for Toys for Tots Rhode Island!

PUZZLE BY: Kevin Beck, URI Sophomore

WORD LIST

- TOYS FOR TOTS
- MARINES
- DOLL
- GAME
- ACTION
- FIGURE
- STOCKING
- PUZZLES
- BOOKS
- HAT
- GLOVES
- MITTENS
- SWEATER
- BOARD GAMES
- CRAYONS
- CRAFTS
- BACK PACK
- SLEEPING BAG
- BLANKET
- VIDEO
- MUSIC
- RADIO
- YOYO
- ANIMAL
- TEDDY BEAR
- LUNCH BOX
- BOAT
- FUN
- MOVIE
- BIKE
- SOCKS
- RUBBER DUCK

R	A	D	I	O	G	L	O	V	E	S	T	A	H
S	E	M	A	G	S	N	E	T	T	I	M	P	Y
T	W	T	S	Z	Z	V	I	D	E	O	Y	U	O
F	G	B	A	K	C	A	P	K	C	A	B	Z	R
A	A	O	I	E	O	M	E	C	C	Y	O	Z	A
R	B	A	N	K	W	O	A	U	A	O	X	L	E
C	G	T	D	J	E	S	B	D	C	Y	T	E	B
R	N	T	O	Y	S	F	O	R	T	O	T	S	Y
A	I	A	F	I	G	U	R	E	I	L	L	O	D
Y	P	M	O	V	I	E	R	B	O	A	F	C	D
O	E	T	E	K	N	A	L	B	N	M	U	K	E
N	E	X	O	B	H	C	N	U	L	I	N	S	T
S	L	C	I	S	U	M	A	R	I	N	E	S	E
Y	S	A	S	E	M	A	G	D	R	A	O	B	R

"Toy Run 2009 is now in the history books. Approximately 1200 motorcycles took part filling two 5-ton Marine Corps trucks. The R.I. Motorcycle Association contributed \$1,000 to the Toys for Tots program through the generosity of the Gilbane Building Company. I'd like to thank all those involved in this truly wonderful event—the volunteers that helped organize; the sponsors that helped cover costs; the Clubs that helped with parking control/road guard duties; the police from Providence, Bristol, Warwick, Johnston, and Central Falls that controlled the interstate traffic; and T.C. from B101 for taking part and promoting our 33rd Annual Ride. Most of all THANK YOU to all the participants that came out and donated all those toys to the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots charity." Bud Cardoso, President, Rhode Island Motorcycle Association (www.RIMotorcycle.com)



2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS—MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND JOIN US!

WEDNESDAY, 11 NOVEMBER—VETERANS DAY

@ **8 AM**—Regular joint meeting of Post & Unit 18 at Portsmouth Town Hall. **Please note date and time to coincide with our annual public ceremony!** There will not be a meeting on Tuesday, 10 November.

@ **9 AM**—Veterans Day ceremony at Portsmouth Town Hall with guest speaker CDR David Carrillo, USN (Ret.); public invited. Note: Unit 18 MAY have a poppy table set up at Clements' Market that morning!

SATURDAY, 14 NOVEMBER & 21 NOVEMBER—OPERATION HOLIDAY CHEER (details below).

SUNDAY, 22 NOVEMBER @ 4:05 PM—American Legion Day @ Providence Bruins (details on PG 1).

SATURDAY, 5 DECEMBER, 9 AM TO NOON—DEPT OF RI AUXILIARY'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SHOPPE @ RI VETERANS HOME. Volunteers needed to display gifts, help vets select appropriate gifts, and wrap and deliver gifts. The DEPT is counting on Post & Unit 18 to have a strong showing of volunteers again this year as well as a "sleigh full" of donated gifts.

(FYI—the CHRISTMAS SHOPPE will be conducted on Saturday, 12 December @ 10 AM at the VA Hospital.) For more info at the DEPT level, contact Donna at mzllillie@cox.net. Post & Unit 18 volunteers should contact Christine at 401.556.5940 or ripost18legion@aol.com.



TUESDAY, 8 DECEMBER—Holiday Open House/informal meeting of Post & Unit 18 (for members & invited guests only) @ home of Post 18 Commander & Unit 18 President. Details enclosed for members.

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

OPERATION HOLIDAY CHEER

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet like-minded people from all walks of life (students, Scouts, bikers, military dependents, retirees, etc.) all working together to bring cheer to our servicemen and women deployed overseas during the holidays.

Donation drop off: Saturday, 14 NOV, 9 AM to 1 PM at the N. Main St. Armory in Providence. **Pack & ship:** Saturday, 21 NOV, 9 AM to 1 PM at the same location.

Volunteers needed to sort, pack and ship. Visit www.ltgov.ri.gov/ohc or e-mail operationholidaycheer@ltgov.state.ri.us for more info. Join us—it's very rewarding!



Volunteers from Post & Unit 18 & JROTC student Rebecca Weaver hosted a Halloween themed BINGO at the RI Veterans Home on 24 OCT 2009. (Photo by A. Cercena)

NEW RELEASES FROM "TO THE FALLEN RECORDS"

RI native, Army officer and Bronze Star recipient Sean Gilfillan along with wife Sidney, co-founders of To The Fallen Records (TTFR), announce the release of three new CDs: Vol. 2 Hip Hop; Vol. 2 Country and Vol. 2 Rock. TTFR is the world's only military (veteran and active duty) record label showcasing a variety of military artists and musical genres. The label's name came from a tattoo that spans Gilfillan's back and honors seven of his comrades KIA in Iraq. Some of the proceeds benefit organizations dedicated to honoring the fallen or assisting disabled soldiers and their families. Check out www.tothefallenrecords.com.

