



AMERICAN LEGION POST 18
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www.americanlegionpost18ri.homestead.com



Flying InFormation ~ News from the Post ~ SEP/OCT 2008

COMMANDER'S BRIEFING

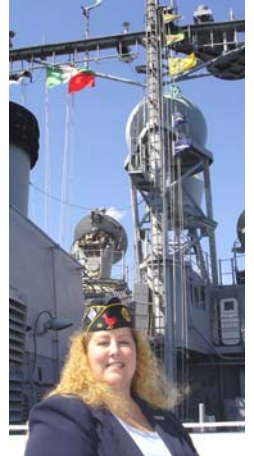
One of my earliest patriotic memories was attending an Army/Navy game at the brand new Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia. My father bought me a stuffed animal (a goat ... the Navy's mascot) and I clung to it the entire game oblivious to the crowd and unknowledgeable about the sport. There have been countless other times that I have been moved to tears by the National Anthem, TAPS, the homecoming of deployed units, or grateful vets at the RI Veterans Home or Operation Stand Down. Inside, you'll find a few stories from readers on the topic of patriotism.

You'll notice good growth in our membership rosters thanks to recruiting efforts by a few of our officers. Downloadable membership forms can be found on our web site. Do you know someone eligible for membership? If you're uncomfortable asking someone to join, please send the prospective member's name and address to our Post Office Box address above; we'll take it from there!

Our Unit regularly sends C.A.R.E. packages to deployed troops. Together with our Post, we are going to make a greater effort in this area. With the burden (heating fuel, aging physical plant, fire code compliance, etc.) of the under-utilized Post Home behind us, we will be able to focus more of our energy and resources to what we do best—supporting veterans and their families and our community.

ripost18legion@aol.com

Christine L. Hayward, Commander



ADJUTANT/TREASURER'S REPORT



As I relax and witness all of the competitors at the Olympic Games, I can't help comparing the members of The American Legion to all of those representing their respective Countries. As the National Anthems of each of the gold medal winners are played, one can just imagine the overwhelming pride that is evident on each of their faces. The smiles reflect their patriotism and love of their own Motherland. I have to wonder as I watch the tiny flags wave if the true meaning of sacrifice is understood and appreciated by all! As in most international sporting events, a variety of manners to salute the Flag is displayed. Our Legionnaires understand the true meaning of sacrifice and are dedicated to the cause of keeping generations aware of the true meaning and honoring of the Flag. You are all "Olympians!"

Please read the calendar section on Page 6. You'll notice that we have a change in our meeting location and some events on the horizon. BINGO at the Veterans Home in Bristol is always fun, so we hope you'll make plans to join us. Volunteer hours available for students and Scouts!

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



Reminder: School is back in session. Please watch out for children boarding and disembarking school buses and walking to and from school!

NAVAL ACADEMY PREP SCHOOL (NAPS) SEEKS VOLUNTEER SPONSORS

The 284 students in the NAPS class of 2009 recently began their 10-month course to prepare for entrance into the US Naval Academy. The staff is seeking military and civilian volunteers in the Newport community to offer students an informal environment away from the Naval Station. Sponsorship can involve sharing home-cooked meals, or providing transportation or a private place to study, etc. If interested, contact MMC(SW) William Leikam at 401.841.4018.

LAW FIRM OF HOULIHAN, MANAGHAN & KYLE ASSISTED WITH CLOSING

Attorney Keith Kyle from the Newport based law firm of Houlihan, Managhan & Kyle helped guide Legion Home, Inc. through the filing of corporate documentation and other paperwork necessary for the listing and sale of the Post Home. The partners at the Firm represent clients in domestic (divorce, custody, etc.), estate planning (wills, trusts, etc.), personal injury, medical malpractice, criminal and business matters. For more info, visit www.hmandklaw.com or call 401.846.7777.

READERS WEIGH IN: PATRIOTIC MOMENTS

I grew up in the 1950's during a time of great patriotism in America. I was predisposed to believe in government and always considered myself a loyal American. My Dad was a World War II veteran and most of my uncles served in the armed forces. My parents weren't what you would call "rah-rah" zealous patriots, but I was raised with a quiet pride for my country and a firm belief in Superman's motto: "Truth, justice, and the American way." My service in Vietnam mortally wounded that innocence and challenged my sense of patriotism. Patriotism is more than hallowed sentiments about Old Glory, the Pledge of Allegiance, and Fourth of July parades. A proper patriotism expresses our personal willingness and commitment to help one another, and to help those who can't help themselves. On May 20, 1999, thirty one years after my Vietnam tour, my dad and I were awarded New Jersey Distinguished Service Medals—that state's highest military award to honor all combat veterans for their service. It was an amazing patriotic moment, shared by father and son, that I will always cherish. My dad passed away shortly thereafter, on February 8, 2000, at the age of 86. He served in the Philippines with the Engineer Corp during WWII, 1945-1946. He retired from Exxon after 42 years in 1971. He was a member of the Catholic War Veterans. I served in Vietnam as a combat medic with the 1/6 Infantry, 198th Light Infantry Brigade, Americal Division during 1967-1968. I was employed by the IRS for 36 years, retiring in 2001. I am a member of the Disabled American Veterans, the Americal Division Veterans Association and the Knights of Columbus.
(Submitted by: Joe De Frank; butchie1220@comcast.net)

I'm not a born American but I have taken the oath of allegiance and have a high respect for those who have already served. A few years ago I was asked to visit an elderly gentleman by his son. His computer was not up to his ambition; he needed a new one. I was very conscious that I might be seen as taking advantage of a pensioner and was a little reluctant to sell him up to the idea. I took him through the pros and cons of my recommendations and he told me to get him a new one. As I was leaving I saw a picture of a WWII destroyer half showing behind a door on the wall. I stopped - pondering the picture and my client's age. I didn't think I would go too far wrong when I asked if he had served on her. "I did - My first command! - The Wilkes - We called her the lucky Wilkes." A little research revealed a fascinating story. My new client (who was to become a firm friend) despite being only an Ensign, raised the alarm aboard USS OKLAHOMA at Pearl Harbor. Surviving shipmates credit the urgency of his call to battle stations - and an unaccustomed expletive - with persuading them it was not just another Sunday drill. He rose to be only one of two naval reserve officers to gain command during WWII and was awarded a Bronze Star with combat "V" for action off the Japanese coast in 1944. Captain Herbert Fox Rommel, Jr., USN (Ret.) passed away in 2007. I was deeply honored to be asked to give his eulogy by the family. All the more so when, despite my protests and by family agreement, they presented me with the Flag from his casket. It now sits by my desk in its case and inspires me daily to live up to the ideals of America. You can read more about Herb at www.herbrommel.com. The photo is of Herb in 1943 while serving on USS GRIDLY as XO. The wartime steel shortage meant no razor blades ... or so Herb said! **(Submitted by: Graeme J. W. Smith, MRIN; graeme@atlantictechgroup.com)**



C.A.R.E. PACKAGE COLLECTION

Since several of our new members are deployed, we will be collecting items to ship to our comrades to share with their buddies. Suggested items (which we will ship out periodically) to bring to POST 18 meetings and events:

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

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

POST 18

Christine L. Hayward, Commander
Vincent C. D'Andrea, Sr. Vice Commander
John Mangold, Jr. Vice Commander
George Wardwell, Adjutant/Treasurer
Walter Alves, Sergeant-at-Arms
Rev. Don Boucher, Chaplain

UNIT 18

Stephanie Perry, President
Veronica "Roni" Perry, Vice President
Damaris Mangold, Treasurer/Secretary
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.

USCG BIRTHDAY

On 3 August 2008, Coasties and supporters gathered at Greenvale Vineyards to celebrate the 218th birthday of the founding of the United States Coast Guard. At left: LT Frank Morrison, CO of USCGC TIGER SHARK (WPB 87359) and his guest cut the ceremonial cake. Below: A group shot in the pastoral setting on the shore of the Sakonnet River.



Photo credit: G. Wardwell



Photo credit: T. Cercena, NLUS



NEWS FROM UNIT 18



Welcome aboard to the new members answering "the call." They say there's strength in numbers, even if it's from a distance, so thank you for joining us! We can all share ideas and contribute in some way, however great or small.

The USS Slater is moored and welcoming visitors aboard in Albany, NY, just a few miles from where I live. The repurposed WWII destroyer escort recently hosted a celebration for the Coast Guard's 218 birthday." Wow! The Coast Guard was founded August 4, 1790, when the First Congress authorized the use of vessels to enforce trade and tariff laws, and to prevent smuggling. Many veterans volunteer aboard the USS Slater making it a great place to meet and greet some of our nation's heroes on a piece of history itself. Many of the goals of the RI-based USS Saratoga Foundation are similar to what the USS Slater has been doing successfully (museum, reunions, educational tours, etc.). I hope you'll stop by if you're in the Upstate NY area or visit www.ussslater.org!

sperry007@nycap.rr.com

Stephanie Perry, President

USS ANZIO (CG 68) VISITS NEWPORT

Homeported in Norfolk, VA, the Aegis cruiser USS ANZIO recently visited Newport. Guided tours followed a briefing on the history of the ship's namesake and her global mission. Former military, Scouts and civilians listened intently as two sailors responsible for our ship-board tour and safety proudly explained the ship's capabilities. For more info, visit: <http://navysite.de/cg/cg68.html>.



POST/UNIT 18 COOK-OUT

Our August meeting was preceded by a cook-out hosted by George and Edna Wardwell. At left: Bill Dietz, Ken Williams, Frank Pine and our hostess, Edna Wardwell. We enjoyed the meal and had a productive meeting. Thank you to all who brought home-cooked goodies to share. Thunderstorms threatened to move the fun indoors, but a last minute reprieve by Mother Nature saved the day!

RACING-THEMED WORD FIND PUZZLE



To learn more about Legion Racing, the Freedom Car and Operation Freedom Car (a troop support program), visit www.legionracing.org. For driver info, stats and racing schedules, visit www.teamjohnsonmotorsports.com.

Photo of the #76 Freedom Car with driver Jerick Johnson courtesy of Team Johnson Motorsports.

Puzzlemaster: K. Beck, URI Freshman

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WORD LIST

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- FREEDOM CAR
- DRIVER
- ROOKIE
- POINTS
- TEAM
- DELAY
- LAPS
- CHECKERED
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- PIT
- CREW
- TIRES
- HELMET
- SAFETY
- HARNES
- HORSEPOWER
- SPONSOR
- ROLL CAGE
- SPEEDWAY
- FUEL
- TRACK
- RULES
- ENGINE
- TROPHY
- SUSPENSION
- PISTON
- BRAKES

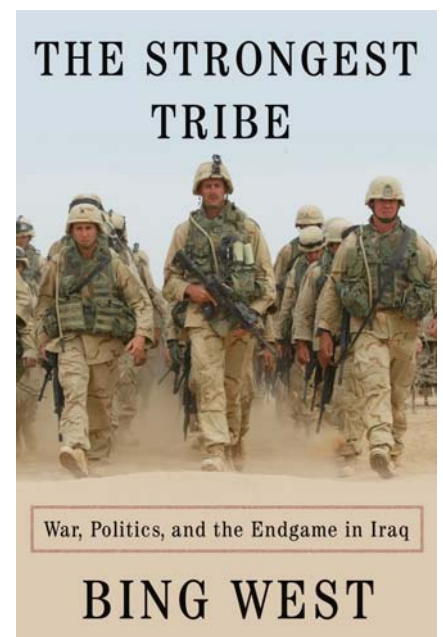
LOCAL AUTHOR BING WEST RELEASES NEW BOOK

Newporter Bing West, considered an authority on the Iraq War and a respected combat journalist, just released his latest work, The Strongest Tribe: War, Politics, and the Endgame in Iraq. He was assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs under President Reagan and served in the Marines in Viet Nam. West has been embedded with more than 60 front-line units fighting the Global War on Terror. His early work,



The Village, is considered by many to be required reading for both enlisted and junior officers, and is—in the words of Newt Gingrich—“a classic study relevant to modern challenges.”

At left, author Bing West with his son, Major Owen West, Marine Force Recon and Adviser Team Leader.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS—MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND JOIN US!

LOTS OF CHANGES . . . PLEASE TAKE NOTE!!!

Tuesday, 9 September 2008 @ 7 PM—Regular joint meeting of Post & Unit 18 @ VFW Post 4487, 52 Underwood Ln., Middletown. (Please note new location thanks to our friends at the VFW!)



Wednesday, 1 October 2008 @ 7 PM—Unit 18 sponsors **BINGO** at the RI Veterans Home in Bristol. Volunteers needed to call the games, help vets play their cards and award prizes. Please join us as we help provide recreation and fellowship to our heroes and have fun while we're at it! Call 401.556.5940 for more info.

Tuesday, 14 October 2008 @ 7 PM—Regular joint meeting of Post & Unit 18 @ VFW Post 4487, 52 Underwood Ln., Middletown. **DEPT OF RI AUXILIARY** will perform Unit 18's installation of officers. Refreshments will be provided. Let's have a good turnout for this special event!

Tuesday, 11 November 2008 @ 8:30 AM—Regular joint meeting of Post & Unit 18 @ Portsmouth Town Hall followed by Veterans Day speech and wreath-laying ceremony @ 9:15 AM (public invited). Note: We will be meeting BEFORE the Veterans Day ceremony instead of meeting again in the evening since this holiday falls on our regular meeting day. Also, we will be sorting items collected for the troops (see list of items on Page 3). Goal for this event: collect supplies to make at least 50 C.A.R.E. packages and funds for postage for same (\$10.95/each).

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

PLEASE WELCOME ABOARD OUR
NEW/TRANSFERRING MEMBERS!

POST 18

MITCH ANDREWS (USN)
RUDOLPH CARRUBA (USAF)
KEVIN COTTLE (USA)

UNIT 18

TRISH (DENNETT) CAPRA
STACY GALARNEAU
BETTY JEAN SCHULTZ

CALL FOR PHOTOS/MEMORIES
FOR NEXT ISSUE

The C.A.R.E. package...a gift from friends and family that put a smile on your face and suddenly made you very popular with your buddies. Now accepting stories—humorous or otherwise—about C.A.R.E. packages sent or received for possible inclusion in the next issue. Send to: 19 Hillside Ave., Newport, RI 02840 or ripost18legion@aol.com.

OPERATION STAND DOWN RI

“A hand up, not a hand out!”

Operation Stand Down Rhode Island will host the 15th annual “Stand Down” from **19 through 21 September 2008** at Diamond Hill Ski Resort in Cumberland, RI.

Stand Down is for homeless and at-risk-of-being homeless veterans. Free services provided include:

- ◆ safe shelter and 3 square meals daily
- ◆ clothing
- ◆ medical help and testing; dental service
- ◆ legal assistance
- ◆ SSI benefits assistance
- ◆ housing assistance
- ◆ VA benefits screening
- ◆ job screening and placement
- ◆ entertainment
- ◆ transportation

Donations of underwear, towels and face cloths needed. Volunteers and funds also needed.

For more info, please contact Tony DeQuattro or Ernest Teixeira at 1.800.861.8387 or opsdri@osd.necoxmail.com.

