



AMERICAN LEGION POST 18
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Flying InFormation ~ News from the Post ~ SUMMER 2008

COMMANDER'S BRIEFING

Hook, line and sinker... The hook—it's what gets you involved in the Legion Family. The line—it's what keeps you involved in the Legion Family. The sinker—it's what helps you keep the hook out there to recruit new members. Like fishing, not everyone is going to take the bait. Eligible members may already have a full plate with work and family commitments that hinder attendance at meetings and functions. Like our National Commander, it may take years to transition from a card-carrying member to an active member. Retirement, empty nest syndrome, relocating, etc. may serve as catalysts to get someone to join or encourage a long-time member to get involved. But quite often, just letting your members know about seasonal or on-going volunteer opportunities, programs and projects might do the trick. We'd love to have you join with us as we continue to serve our "Community, State and Nation!"

ripost18legion@aol.com

Christine L. Hayward, Commander



National Commander Marty F. Conatser addressed RI Legionnaires on 24 June 2008 at the William Shields, Jr. Post 43-Warwick. A very charismatic speaker and story teller, he stressed the importance of educating members, prospective members, communities and the media about all of the good things the Legion Family does locally, statewide and nationally. As a retired Sergeant Major in the Army, he is a "boots on the ground" type of individual and an inspiring leader convinced that even small Posts make a contribution to Legion programs. We thank our friends at DEPT OF RI and Post 43 for hosting this event.

ADJUTANT/TREASURER'S REPORT

I must say, assuming the position of Post Adjutant/Treasurer is a bit overwhelming at this particular time in our history. Our dilemma with the Post Home has been well published so our membership will not be surprised to hear of the pending sale. Many of us have spent many hours trying to make sure the right decision has been made to ensure our operation as Legion Home, Inc. continues into the next century. Decisions of this magnitude are not made easily and discussions for and against were made throughout the process. Once the sale is finalized, the proceeds distributed/invested according to our planning, and our new meeting facility is established, we can get down to the business of supporting our communities, our youth and our veterans. To help us achieve our visionary plans hence forth, we continue to need support from everyone. Vinnie D'Andrea made significant strides during his tenure as Commander in retaining and increasing membership. We need to continue this course well into the future. Our youth think of patriotism in different context; they need us to help them understand what being a good citizen is about. Keep those blank membership applications with you and be ready to fill them out when the opportunity to recruit a new member arises. I want to extend my sincere appreciation to all of you that have already paid their renewal dues—your cards are in the mail!

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



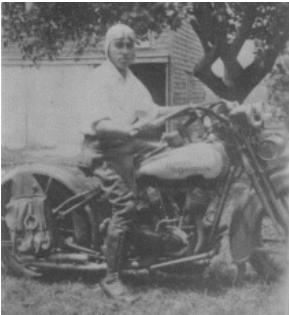
For local hurricane preparedness tips, RI evacuation maps and to apply as an emergency response volunteer, visit www.riema.ri.gov. For national info, visit the National Hurricane Center at www.nhc.noaa.gov.

UNIT 18 DONATES ANTIQUE FLAG TO NAVAL WAR COLLEGE (NWC) MUSEUM

Coveted by the prestigious Smithsonian National Museum of American History, Unit 18's antique flag has been donated to the Naval War College Museum. Gifted to Unit 18 in 1938 by Ida Fuller whose family was a steward of the flag for a century, the Smithsonian examined the flag in 1999 and determined it was made between 1820 and 1850. The flag sports an unusual arrangement of one large star in the center surrounded by 12 smaller stars.



At right, Professor John Hattendorf, Director of the NWC Museum, examines the flag. The Museum plans to have professional textile experts conserve and mount the flag so it can be added to the permanent displays in Founders Hall. The NWC Museum is free and open to the public daily from 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM and on summer weekends from noon to 4:30 PM. For those without military ID cards and car decals, reservations are required. Call 401.841.2101 or 401.841.4052 one working day in advance. Visit www.visitri.com/navy.html for information. We hope to organize a group tour for Post and Unit 18 this fall to visit our former piece of Americana!



PUFL MEMBER FRANK PINE, AGE 94, RIDES WITH COMBAT VETERANS MOTORCYCLE ASSOCIATION (CVMA) IN S. DAKOTA

Post 18 member Frank Pine (The Old One) attended the CVMA national gathering held in Spearfish, SD. The CVMA's mission is to "support those that have defended this country and its freedoms." In addition to meetings, there were sight-seeing opportunities, such as a rare evening detonation at the Crazy Horse Memorial construction site. The group rode to Mount Rushmore and The Badlands, and also visited Black Hills National Cemetery where the youngest and oldest member placed a wreath on the grave of Sergeant Charles Windolph, a Medal of Honor recipient from the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Accompanied by tribal dancers, Chief Eagle of the Lakota Indian Tribe blessed the fleet of bikes. Above is a picture of Frank from 1931 astride a 1929 Harley. Our thanks to CVMA for giving Frank the "adventure of a lifetime!" Frank was inducted into the CVMA in March 2008 (see photo at bottom right of him with daughter Roni—our Unit 18 VP!). He is also a founding member of the **Viking Riders** and a member of the **Patriot Guard Riders (PGR)**. Frank still volunteers regularly. South Dakota pictures courtesy of CVMA—RI Chapter. For more info, visit www.ri.combatvet.org.





Representative Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) with James Mullen in Washington, DC

POST 18 VOLUNTEER NATIONAL HISTORY DAY WINNER

Post 18 volunteer and Coventry High School student **James Mullen** won 1st place at the state level in the annual National History Day (NHD) contest which earned him a chance to compete in the nationals. Along with teammate **Josh Catalfamo**, he created a web site on the Cuban Missile Crisis which

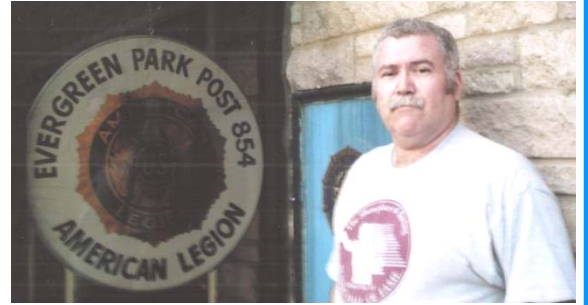
was in keeping with this year's theme—Conflict & Compromise in History. NHD helps teachers meet educational standards by sharing resources and curriculum materials and sponsors challenging contests that teach students the skills needed to be effective citizens in the 21st century. Working individually or in teams of up to five students, competitors create imaginative exhibits, documentaries, original performances, papers or web sites related to the annual theme. Competition begins at the local level and progresses to the national level with awards up to \$5,000 and scholarships. James and his family met with Rhode Island Senators and Representatives while in Washington, DC for the Nationals. For more info, visit www.nationalhistoryday.org. We're very proud of you! The following website created by James and Josh placed 1st in Coventry, 1st in Rhode Island and 9th in the Nationals: <http://mysite.verizon.net/vze7yyva/cubanmissilecrisisnhd/index.htm>

LEGION BASEBALL UPDATE

With a regular season record of 13-6-1, **Tom's Lawn & Garden/Portsmouth Post 18** has home field advantage in the first round of the playoffs. At right, P. J. Racine (#4) lowers the colors at the **SGT Donald H. Sisson Memorial Flagpole** at the conclusion of a recent game. For schedules, stats, photos, special events, directions to fields and more news, visit: www.phsbaseball.org/TLG18/TLG18Home.htm. We're proud of the excellent sportsmanship practiced by our players and coaches!



Sr. Vice Commander Vinny D'Andrea recently visited the Chicago area. While there, he paid a visit to Soldier Field. He thanks Legionnaires at **Evergreen Park Post 854** for their hospitality.



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
- Christine L. Hayward, Historian/Editor/ Webmistress

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.

DEPT OF RI INSTALLATION TEAM CONDUCTS CEREMONY

The installation team and other dignitaries from the DEPT OF RI swore in Post 18's slate of officers on 8 July 2008. We were honored by the presence of: B. Winston (DEPT CDR), E. "Geronimo" Gerundio (DEPT NEC MAN); E. Johnson (DEPT SGT-AT-ARMS); M. Lawrence, Jr. (DEPT ASST CHAPLAIN); L. Reed (2nd COUNTY CDR) (at right), and E. Michaud (3rd COUNTY CDR).



NEWS FROM UNIT 18

I was recently reminded that I took my first steps at Valley Forge in Pennsylvania. While I don't remember the event, I do remember visiting Valley Forge when we were stationed for a second time in Philly several years later.

What do I remember? Being amazed that this was the same ground treaded by General George Washington. I remember the excitement as we walked through the woods and toured the small cabins where the troops hunkered down. How lucky to be stationed so close to such

an important piece of history! Perhaps taking those first steps years ago at Valley Forge lead me in the right direction of being patriotic. Unit members will soon be asked to vote on programs that we want to continue supporting. As we prepare our budget, funding will be apportioned based on the outcome of the voting. Our days pushing cupcakes at bake sales are long gone (although they were tasty and we did raise money!). We've got important work ahead. Won't you join us?



sperry007@nycap.rr.com

Stephanie Perry, President

NAVY BAND NORTHEAST DELIGHTS AUDIENCES

Musicians assigned to Navy Band Northeast are multi-talented often mastering several instruments as well as directing, composing, providing vocals and sound, stage and schedule management. The band has several smaller components such as Rhode Island Sound and the Navy Show Band. Lead by LT Carl Gerhard, the band has a busy schedule. Below, MU2 Vincent Beard and the band perform at the Redwood Library's Summer Concert Series. On Sunday, **24 August 2008**, Naval Station Newport will host an **"End of Summer"** concert starting at 5 PM featuring the Northeast Navy Show Band and **Huey Lewis & the News**. Later, fireworks will light up the night sky. Watch your local paper for details.



Thanks to a donation from Unit 18, the Portsmouth High School Garden Club planted a tree and several flowering shrubs in memory of long-time Unit 18 members Rachel Alves and Angie Pine. Due to the end of the school year, we were unable to coordinate a formal dedication ceremony. Family members are encouraged to visit the corner of the school closest to the Sisson Memorial to view the dogwood and hydrangeas. Kudos to Damaris Mangold for spearheading this effort to honor our members.



AMERICAN LEGION THEMED WORD FIND PUZZLE

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WORD LIST

AMERICAN	LEGION
AUXILIARY	SONS
VETERANS	
POST	UNIT
SQUADRON	
DEPARTMENT	
COMMUNITY	
STATE	NATION
EMBLEM	FLAG
PROGRAMS	
CHILDREN	YOUTH
BOYS STATE	
GIRLS STATE	
ORATORICAL	
BASEBALL	
RIDERS	RACING
PATRIOTISM	
POPPY	

ARTILLERY COMPANY OF NEWPORT FEATURED IN WINNING PHOTO

"Let Justice Prevail Though the Heavens May Fall"

Chartered in 1741, the Artillery Company of Newport (ACN) played an important role in our local history. Today, the ACN participates in historic reenactments and provides color guards for civic and patriotic occasions. Their Armory and Museum located on Clarke Street in Newport house Paul Revere cannons as well as artifacts from the Civil War, WWI and WWII, and an extensive collection of international military uniforms. For more info, call 401.846.8488 or visit www.newportartillery.org. Note: Several members of Post and Unit 18 are members of the ACN. New members welcome!



Photo credit: Graeme J. W. Smith

FLAG PHOTO CONTEST RULES

A photo featuring an American flag will be included in each issue of "Flying InFormation." If your photo is selected, you will receive a \$10 Dunkin' Donuts Gift Card. To enter, submit your image to 19 Hillside Ave., Newport, RI 02840 or e-mail ripost18legion@aol.com. Please include your name, address, when and where the photo was taken, photographer's name and caption. Need not be a member to enter. Good luck!

Save Post 18 the cost of production and mailing and get your newsletter in full color! 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.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS—MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND JOIN US!

Tuesday, 12 August 2008 @ 6 PM (cook-out)/7 PM (meeting)—Regular joint meeting of Post & Unit 18 @ home of RMC & Mrs. George Wardwell, 1 Hickory Ave., Middletown, RI. Members: please see invitation for details. After the cook-out, a budget will be discussed/reviewed. You have a voice; show up and make it heard!



Sunday, 17 August 2008 from 10 AM to 1 PM—RI Blood Center Donor Coach @ St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 324 E. Main Rd., Portsmouth, RI. For more info, call 1.800.283.8385.

Monday, 1 September—Happy Labor Day!

Tuesday, 9 September 2008 @ 7 PM—Regular joint meeting of Post & Unit 18 (location to be determined). If you plan to attend, please call 401.556.5940 or e-mail ripost18legion@aol.com. We hope to make arrangements for a permanent meeting location in the next few weeks!

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



We're packin' up and movin' out! A few members showed up (on short notice!) on July 19th to help with the DITY (do-it-yourself) move. Thank you to: John & Tim Mangold, Rev. & Mrs. Boucher,

and David & Christine Hayward. We need to finish packing up items we plan to keep and store and getting rid of items for which we no longer have any use (some destined for other local non-profits; some destined for the dump). We'll also try to reunite a few photos, certificates, etc. with family members. If you are available for a few hours to help sort and pack, contact Christine at 401.556.5940 or ripost18legion@aol.com.

CALL FOR PHOTOS/MEMORIES

The next issue will feature stories from readers about patriotic moments. Was there a time in your life when you felt overcome with patriotism? Send your photos and brief stories to: C. Hayward, Editor, 19 Hillside Ave., Newport, RI 02840 or ripost18legion@aol.com.



For updates on the Freedom Car, visit:

www.teamjohnsonmotorsports.com

While surfing the web, I found this video of the Freedom Car which AL Internal Affairs has viewed and approved:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=CzxMjANPyzA



Several Post 18 Members attended Armed Services Night at McCoy Stadium, home of the PawSox, on 25 JUNE 2008. Can you pick George Wardwell and Vinny D'Andrea out of the crowd? To learn more about The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA), visit www.trea.org.

WELCOME ABOARD OUR
NEW/TRANSFERRING MEMBERS!

POST 18
DAVID B. HAYWARD (USAF)
UNIT 18 ("We rock!"-Fran Kain)
KAREN BLOMSTEDT
HEATHER KIELBASA
BARBARA "BONNIE" MONK
LIS MULLEN
EDNA WARDWELL