



# Hollis VFW

## April 2023 Newsletter

Vol. 33 Issue: 4

*Serving Hollis and Brookline*

April 2023

*The Hollis VFW meets the third Sunday of each month at 7 PM. Meetings are at the American Legion Hall, 38 Main Street, Brookline, NH.*

*You can also attend via Zoom at: <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/86999020485?pwd=blA2NlZNMFo5cFhwVHlKUKVWTXMxZz09>; Meeting ID = 86999020485; Passcode: q47TDf, or, by Phone = (646) 558-8656; Meeting ID = 86999020485#.*

*If you wish to join or have questions about the VFW, please call one of the Post Officers.*

### *Next Meeting: 16 April*

### **March Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Open Time: 7:00 PM at the Brookline American Legion Hall and via Zoom. 9 members present.

**Membership:** Nothing to report.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Bruce Moran to dispense with the verbal reading of the Minutes from the January meeting as they were published in the newsletter; seconded by Bob Smith and unanimously approved.

**Quartermaster's Report:** The Quartermaster's Report was read. Chris Lussier stated there were no deposits the past month. Disbursements for the month were \$100 to Robyn Nelson. Bruce Moran made a motion that the Quartermaster's report be accepted as read, pending audit; seconded by Bob Smith and unanimously approved.

#### **Correspondence:**

- Robyn Nelson, the Post Historian, sent a thank you note to the Post for the check to cover the historical albums.

- The Post received dues from Kathleen Redmond Catania: Nothing to report.

#### **Comrade in Distress:**

- Jeff Smith stated he is doing well after his recent surgery.
- Greg d'Arbonne stated he is doing well after his recent cardio ablation.
- Jim Bélanger stated his brother, Richard Bélanger, is in his last days. The Post remembered Richard in their prayers.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- Service Officer: Nothing to report.
- Scout of the Year: Colin Robinson was submitted to District as our Post Scout of the Year. Commander Tigert will send in the paperwork.
- Citizen of the Year: Members said it was an outstanding presentation at the Hollis Town Meeting.

#### **Old Business:**

- Casino event for the Post: Chris Lussier and Bruce Moran met with representatives at the casino and submitted the necessary

paperwork to sponsor the event. The Post will receive the proceeds from the week of 10 to 16 April. We will share with the American Legion Post in Pelham. Chris Lussier paid \$96.50 for the fingerprinting that was required to sponsor the event and the \$25 per day our Post is required to pay, for a total of \$175. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion that the Post reimburse Chris in the amount of \$271.50 for the cost to participate in the casino nights; seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved.

- Forum on the US Constitution and Patriotism: Chris Lussier will speak to Trevor Duval, the High School Civics teacher about this session.
- Chris Lussier and Greg d'Arbonne will discuss the Post Bylaws and recommend any changes at the next meeting. It was stated that electronic voting via Zoom, e-mail, etc. should be covered in the new Bylaws.
- There is a passionate plea for more members to volunteer for positions within the Post leadership. Greg d'Arbonne will make a comment in the newsletter and will write a short article for the Hollis-Brookline Rotary weekly e-paper about needing Veterans to help other Veterans in the community.

**Remember the National Home:** The Post said prayers for the National Home and their residents.

**General Orders:** As distributed by the Department and District and posted on the Department website.

#### **New Business:**

- Memorial Day:
  - It was decided it is time to have a meeting on the activities with Al Fulchino to coordinate events.
  - Chris Lussier will coordinate with the Transfer Station for the Post to hand out Poppies.
- Al Fulchino spoke to Greg d'Arbonne and George Robinson about placing wreaths on

graves at Christmas time. Greg passed to Al the contact for wreaths the NH Veteran Cemetery uses.

- Post Elections: at the April meeting the Post will elect Officers for the 2023 – 2024 Fiscal Year. The slate of Officers is:
  - Post Commander: Mark Tigert
  - Senior Vice: Mark Andrews
  - Junior Vice: George Robinson
  - Chaplain: Bruce Moran
  - Service Officer: Bruce Moran
  - JAG: Bob Smith
  - Quartermaster: Chris Lussier
  - Adjutant: Greg d'Arbonne
  - Surgeon: Jim Kelley
  - Trustees:
    - Bob Smith = 1 Year
    - Andy Seremeth = 2 Year
    - Jim Bélanger = 3 Year
- Veterans are invited to speak to the 8th Graders on 31 March as we have done in the past.
- The Post will participate in the funeral service of Command Sergeant Major (Retired) Robert Delia on 26 March at 1 PM.
- There will be an event on 26 March to honor Jim Bélanger's service to the community. All are invited.
- Chris Lussier will send a thank you note to the Hollis Police Department for doing the fingerprinting for the Post to participate in the casino event.

#### **For the Good of the Order:**

- Greg d'Arbonne and Chris Lussier plowed the driveway of Bob Delia.
- Both tax credits for Veterans were approved at the Hollis Town Meeting.
- Chris Lussier supported the Army Recruiting Company with his Jeep at their recruiting event.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM. The next meeting is 7 PM, Sunday, 16 April at the Brookline American Legion Hall, Brookline, NH and by Zoom.

## **News For & From Members**

### **Death of Jim Bélanger's Brother Richard**

Our condolences to Post member Jim Bélanger and his family upon the death of his brother Richard. Richard was a Korean War Veteran.

### **Calendar of Events**

Added/Changed events are highlighted in yellow.

#### April

- 16 Apr: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 27 Apr: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting

#### May

- 21 May: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 25 May: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting
- 27 May: Distribution of Poppies at Town Transfer Stations
- 29 May: Memorial Day. 0930 Brookline Ceremony. 1700 Hollis Ceremony.

#### June

- 22 June: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting
- 25 Jun: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline Legion Hall – change due to Father's Day on the regular meeting day.

#### July

- 4 July: 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade in Brookline, assemble at 9:30 AM at Legion Hall.
- 16 July: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 27 July: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting

### **Please Make Sure You Renew ASAP**

If you pay annually for your membership, we ask that you renew as soon as possible so we can meet our numbers for the year now and not have to rush at the end of the year (which is June). You can renew at a meeting, or you can renew online (<https://www.vfw.org/OMS/QuickRenew.aspx>), but please renew!!

# News of Interest to Veterans

## Help Build the Veteran Database at the NH Veterans Heritage Learning Center

At the NH State Veterans Cemetery is the "Veterans Heritage Learning Center" to help people learn about NH's rich military history. One of the active displays is the Remembrance Station where veterans or family/friends can enter an entry of their military history and other information - as much or little as they want. Photos of people and items can also be added to the entry.

Please take a few minutes to enter your name and military, etc. bio info (whatever you'd like to share). OR enter a family member who is/was a veteran or a friend. Here's the link to Veteran Bio Input Form: <https://www.vhlc.org/stories-of-service-station/veteran-bio-form>.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

You must be a current Life member of the VFW, or if purchasing a Memorial Legacy, the veteran in whose name it is purchased must be a deceased member of the VFW.

**Instructions:**

1. Complete the acceptance form.
2. Check the level: Bronze, Silver or Gold. You may upgrade your Legacy level at any time by paying the difference to your desired level.
3. If purchasing a Memorial Legacy, ensure that the name and member number are those of the veteran in whose name the Memorial Legacy is being purchased.
4. Payment options: check, money order or credit card - payment in full.
5. Installment option: Purchase an Installment Legacy Life Membership by making four equal payments. The first payment must accompany this form and be equal to 1/4 of the level being purchased (Bronze \$100, Silver \$200 and Gold \$300). You must provide a credit card number to make installment payments, and you acknowledge that the subsequent installment payments will be billed by National Headquarters quarterly. Memorial Legacies must use the payment in full option.
6. Choose the endowment:
  - a. One-time endowment payment: Upon your death, the principal amount of your Legacy will be paid in equal amounts to your Post, Department and the National organization, as applicable.
  - b. Annual endowment: The Legacy level payment will continue annually after your death. Memorial Legacies must be purchased as an Annual endowment.
7. Enclose check or credit card information for payment. If choosing the installment payment option, a credit card must be provided.
8. Mail the acceptance form, along with a check, money order or credit card information to the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Headquarters at the address located below.



Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Member Service Center  
406 W. 34th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64111 - 2778

Revised 1/2023

### Member Incentives

	Bronze \$400	Silver \$800	Gold \$1200
Plated Engraved Legacy Life Card*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legacy Life Lapel Pin*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legacy Life Hat Pin*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Distinctive VFW Store items for Legacy Life Members*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legacy Life Membership Certificate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member Recognition on Internet & Convention Program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legacy Hat Patch*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personalized Brick at Centennial Plaza*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
VFW Store Discounts (personal use only)*	5%	10%	15%
Annual Endowment to Post	\$6	\$12	\$18
Annual Endowment to Department	\$6	\$12	\$18

\* does not apply to Memorial Legacies



## LEAVE YOUR LEGACY

Make a lasting gift to the  
VFW for generations to come.



Leave your Legacy  
**TODAY!**



**Legacy Life membership enables VFW Life members to leave a lasting impression on our great organization.**

When you become a Legacy Life member, you are helping us strengthen the VFW – where **NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**

Three prestigious levels of Legacy Life membership are available: Gold, Silver, and Bronze. Each level offers generous benefits reserved exclusively for Legacy Life members.

Once your Legacy Life membership begins, an annual endowment in your name will be made to your Post, Department and the national organization. This endowment begins at \$6 at the Bronze level, increasing to \$12 at Silver and \$18 at Gold. You will feel confident knowing your contributions to our organization are not only helping today's veterans but the veterans of tomorrow.

Simply fill out the attached acceptance form and return it to the address provided. For any questions regarding Legacy Life membership, please contact the VFW Member Service Center at 1.833.VFW.VETS (1.833.839.8387). We will gladly provide you with more information on this prestigious and rewarding membership.

*"Legacy Life membership seems like the next step in doing my duty to my fellow veterans."*



Whether we have served our country or have had a loved one in uniform, we all know the dedication and commitment that comes with military service.

Help us ensure that the tradition of selfless service lasts forever.

Leave a Legacy today.

**Honor a veteran with a Memorial Legacy.**

You can ensure that future generations know and remember the sacrifice and contributions of a veteran who has passed away by establishing a Memorial Legacy in their name.

At the same levels - Gold, Silver, or Bronze - you can establish a Memorial Legacy in the name of any deceased Annual or Life VFW member. An annual endowment will be made to the Post, Department, and the national organization in their memory.

In addition to establishing this endowment in their honor, you will receive a special certificate memorializing the veteran, to display and commemorate their life and their service to our great nation.



**LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP ACCEPTANCE FORM**

PLEASE SELECT ONE:  
☐ Yes, I wish to become a Legacy Life Member of the VFW!  
☐ I am purchasing a Memorial Legacy in the name of a deceased VFW Member.

**MY NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**Social Security No.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Life Member No.** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_ **CELL** \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBER NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**Check** ☐ **Visa** ☐ **Master Card** ☐ **Discover** ☐ **Amex** ☐ **Installment Plan** ☐

**Upon My Death:** ☐ Make a One-Time Endowment ☐ Continue to be Annual Endowment ☐

**Exp. Date** \_\_\_\_\_ **(MM/YY)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**BRONZE** (4400)  
**SILVER** (5600)  
**GOLD** (\$1200)

## Points To Ponder

*The views expressed in the following articles are deemed interesting enough by me to include in the newsletter. I take full responsibility and the content does not reflect the opinion of the members of the Post. Please contact me if these articles offend you. – Greg d'Arbonne*

### The Washington Post Editorial Board Wants Veterans to Forfeit Earned Benefits

*Below is in response to the editorial by the Washington Post concerning Veteran Benefits that you will find after the response. I wrote a sarcastic response on my Facebook page about the Post article if you want to read it, but I feel the VFW response is more than adequate to address this issue. By the way, this is another example of why every Veteran should be a member of some veteran organization. Without your support, organizations like the VFW, American Legion, and many, many more would not be able to fight for what we earned from our Service. If you know Veterans who do not belong to a Veteran organization, encourage them to join our Post. - Greg*

VFW Executive Director Ryan Gallucci: 'If the editorial board is so worried about moral responsibility, maybe they should pick up a weapon and stand a post'

WASHINGTON (April 4, 2023) — Yesterday, The Washington Post Editorial Board suggested America balance its budget on the backs of veterans. The VFW has heard these tired arguments before but was shocked to see them endorsed by an institution like the Washington Post.

According to their public bios, none of the 10 members of The Washington Post Editorial Board have spent a single minute serving this country in uniform unlike those who have earned the benefits the Board quickly dismisses as charity and essentially a waste of public money. The impudence with which these individuals enthusiastically signed their names to criticize the care and benefits our service members earn, while enjoying the very freedoms our service members defend, should bring shame upon them as both journalists for a once-revered institution like The Washington Post and as fellow Americans.

This lazy opinion piece from The Washington Post Editorial Board is a recycled compilation of anti-veteran talking points against which the VFW has fought for years. The VFW would have welcomed the opportunity to refute these unjustifiable points if approached to do so. Yet, those of us who represent millions of veterans are now forced to react to hatchet journalism. Had the elitist Editorial Board chosen to reach out to anyone who assists veterans in navigating these hard-earned benefits, they may have learned about the true hidden costs of more than 20 years of war, and why our nation's commitment to care for both the visible and invisible wounds of war is crucial to our long-term national interest.

If The Post's esteemed Editorial Board wants to take a shot at veteran benefits, they should at least provide original thoughts and ideas, and not the scraps of other writers or proposals that the VFW dismantles on a regular basis. Veterans' benefits cost more than they did in years past. That is the price of war. It is also the price of peace and the price of defending misguided free speech – such a paradox for those of us who swore to defend the very Constitution that protects such vitriol.

However, this cost is not only a reflection of more Americans surviving the battlefield, but it is also our country recognizing the inherent danger of military service. Last year, the Honoring Our PACT Act rightfully expanded toxic exposure benefits to veterans who have suffered debilitating illnesses, some dating all the way back to the 1950s. Does The Washington Post Editorial Board prefer these veterans, their families and survivors continue to suffer in silence as they have for years? Should those who defend the very institution and profession that printed these words continue to suffer and die because it might be too expensive?

It is laughable that the employees of one of the richest individuals in the world have the audacity to suggest disabled veterans should be the persons responsible for balancing the federal budget – instead of their wealthy billionaire benefactors who notoriously skirt their tax liabilities.

You would think with all the collective Ivy League degrees held by The Washington Post Editorial Board they would understand basic economics. Instead, they recommend that veterans be subjected to means tests or outright forfeit their earned benefits if they manage to constructively cope with these life-altering disabilities.

Sadly, it seems those degrees only served to inspire the Editorial Board to take the easy way out and renege on promises made to veterans, their family members, and survivors. If the Editorial Board is so worried about moral responsibility, maybe they should pick up a weapon and stand a post.

Ryan Gallucci is the executive director of the VFW Washington Office where he is responsible for the organization's legislative advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill and the VFW's global network of benefits representatives who are accredited by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to assist



veterans, eligible family members, and survivors in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of benefit claims before the agency.

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THE POST'S VIEW

# Opinion Veterans deserve support. But one benefit program deserves scrutiny.



By the [Editorial Board](#)

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April 3, 2023 at 7:00 a.m. EDT

America must keep faith with its military veterans. We owe the greatest debt to those who risked their lives to keep us free.

But the promises America has made to the women and men who have served in uniform are due for a review. The budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs has grown at a dramatic pace since 9/11 — from roughly \$45 billion in 2001 to more than \$300 billion this year.

Many factors contribute to a sharp rise in veteran spending — the aging of post-9/11 veterans, numerous enhancements made by Congress to existing benefit programs, and a more muscular outreach by the department to alert veterans to the care and benefits on offer. In addition, the veterans of Iraq, Afghanistan and other post-9/11 conflicts have higher disability rates compared with all veterans, the result of improved battlefield medicine and a broader understanding of the array of service-connected injuries and disabilities.

If we owe our veterans every support, we also owe them a measure of fiscal responsibility. Today, we offer suggestions about how to carefully prune the department's kudzu-like spending growth.

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The department's budget is composed chiefly of two parts: Roughly half provides health care to veterans — and that budget has grown in recent years with inflation in the medical sector and amid a broad bipartisan recognition that VA clinics and hospitals were for too long poorly funded and managed. The reset over the past decade took too long to put in place, but it has been met with positive reviews.

The VA pays disabled veterans monthly stipends according to the level of service-related injury. Payments rise, on a scale of 1 to 100, from minor injuries to complete impairment.

The ratings were established in 1945 and in many cases have not changed in decades. That means payments are generally based on the ability to perform work most needed generations ago, or what the Congressional Budget Office described as “manual or physical labor.” The skill sets needed and jobs available today — in an information and service economy — are in many cases different from those needed in the months and years after World War II.

Disability payments based on those ratings go to veterans tax-free and continue, with some exceptions, for the entirety of a veteran’s life, and they are paid regardless of whether the recipient is working. Helped by sustained public campaigns (and credits for employers in the tax code), most veterans return to the civilian workforce after their service and are more likely to be employed today than nonveterans. Disabled veterans return to the workforce at nearly the same rate as veterans without disabilities. By contrast, Social Security disability payments go only to those who cannot work.

#### **Also on the Editorial Board’s agenda**

- The misery of Belarus’s political prisoners should not be ignored.
- Biden has a new border plan.
- The United States should keep the pressure on Nicaragua.
- America’s fight against inflation isn’t over.
- The Taliban has doubled down on the repression of women.
- The world’s ice is melting quickly.

Over the next eight years, disability payments to veterans (and their survivors) are expected to rise by nearly half, from \$130 billion a year to \$192 billion a year. At the same time, the number of veterans receiving disability payments is expected to rise more modestly, from 5.7 million to 6.3 million, or slightly more than 10 percent, over the same period.

Though the Department of Veterans Affairs revises its disability ratings from time to time, Congress should consider a broader modernization of the disability ratings system. And lawmakers should consider means-testing disability benefits for veterans who are high earners. The Congressional Budget Office estimates limiting payments for veterans who earn more than \$170,000 a year would save \$253 billion over the next decade. Congress could alternatively tax the benefits, or some portion of them, particularly for new recipients with high incomes.

None of these steps would be politically easy. Proposing and voting for new benefits for veterans have long been among the few policy areas that both Democrats and Republicans support. We also know that the array of benefits offered by the VA plays an important role in attracting and retaining the all-volunteer force — especially in an era of low unemployment and rising wages in the civilian sector.

But the moral responsibility Americans have to those who fought for the country is of diminished value if it does not align with the fiscal responsibility Americans have to keep their financial house safe and sound.



## When a pilot discovers a spider in the cockpit



### Post Officers

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