



# Hollis VFW

## August 2023 Newsletter

Vol. 33 Issue: 8

*Serving Hollis and Brookline*

August 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=bIA2NlZNMFo5cFhwVHlKUkVWWTxMxZz09](https://us05web.zoom.us/j/86999020485?pwd=bIA2NlZNMFo5cFhwVHlKUkVWWTxMxZz09;); 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: 20 August*

### **July Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Open Time: 7:00 PM at the Brookline American Legion Hall. The Zoom system was down that evening. 5 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 June meeting as they were published in the newsletter; seconded by Bob Smith and unanimously approved.

**Quartermaster's Report:** The Quartermaster's Report was read. The Post received \$428 from the Town of Hollis for Memorial Day expenses; a \$100 donation from Chris Lussier; and \$.65 from interest earned; for a total of \$528.65. There were no disbursements this past month. Bruce Moran made a motion that the Quartermaster's report be accepted as read, pending audit; seconded by Bob Smith and unanimously approved.

**Correspondence:** Nothing received.

**Comrade in Distress:** Greg d'Arbonne stated his father is still in rehab and continues to have dementia issues.

**Committee Reports:** Bruce Moran referred a local Veteran to the Veterans Count organization to assist him.

**Old Business:** The Post still needs to do an After-Action Review with Al Fulchino about the Memorial Day ceremony.

**Remember National Home:** Prayer was said for the National Home and residents.

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

#### **New Business:**

- **Voluntary Donations:** Greg d'Arbonne made a motion that the Post donates \$50 to each of the recommended donations by the Department of New Hampshire; seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved.

- Bruce Moran made a motion that the Post reimburse Chris Lussier in the amount of \$75 for the down payment he made for the next gambling opportunity; seconded by Bob Smith and unanimously approved.

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

- The Post will support the funeral and burial of Justin Adams grandfather, George J. Charland, on 4 August.
- Chris Lussier and Bob Smith attended the promotion of SFC Monica Fontanoza of the Amherst Army Recruiting Station.

- Bruce Moran and Chris Lussier attended the funeral of LTC (Ret) James Neeley, a local Veteran, at St. John Neuman.
- The members agreed that the Brookline 4th of July Parade went very well.
- Colin Robinson, son of Post member George Robinson, was selected as the VFW New Hampshire Scout of the Year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM. The next meeting is 7 PM, Sunday, 20 August at the Brookline American Legion Hall, Brookline, NH and by Zoom.

## **News For & From Members**



Chris Lussier and Bob Smith and members of the Amherst Army Recruiting Station at SFC Fontanoza's promotion ceremony. The best Recruiters for our future Service members are Veterans and our Post does its part.



Chris Lussier and Bob Smith attending the "Cruise Night" at the New Hampshire Veterans Home.

## **Calendar of Events**

Added/Changed events are highlighted in yellow.

### August

- 20 August: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 24 August: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting

### September

- 8 - 9 September: Hollis Old Home Days
- 17 September: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 28 September: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting

### October

- 15 October: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 26 October: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting

### November

- 11 November: Hollis VFW Veterans Day Ceremony, 11 AM, Hollis Community Church.
- 16 November: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting
- 19 November: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.

## **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>.

## **Operation Care for Troops Update**

I am writing to you as Operation Care for Troops (OCT) is preparing for the August Care Package shipment to deployed troops. In August OCT expects to send care packages to 650 to 700 deployed troops. Of those, 294 are deployed NHNG Troops in the middle east and 215 deployed elsewhere. In September OCT will support Harbor Cares "Veterans' Stand Down" with requested items as well as 75 product bags geared to homeless & in-transition Veterans in NH.

Further, OCT is responding to many special requests from units. Recently, a special request from the NH National Guard with care packages filled with Hydration Drink Mix, protein bars and protein snacks.

For Operation Care for Troops to continue, we are in need of funds for shipping care packages (\$21.20 per box) and funds to purchase products. Donations can be mailed to: Operation Care for Troops, PO Box 1604, Nashua, NH 03061

OCT accepts PayPal. Link is:

[https://www.paypal.com/donate?token=7iMiYvxaE4Ypm3nb6AAFr6TTzDbNyl5LC0aSjM0miFZNsi eo5F8e5qVrtnz\\_eboTvXaz0x2O3gVJw\\_CN](https://www.paypal.com/donate?token=7iMiYvxaE4Ypm3nb6AAFr6TTzDbNyl5LC0aSjM0miFZNsi eo5F8e5qVrtnz_eboTvXaz0x2O3gVJw_CN)

Below is a recent thank you from NHNG from OCT's April packing. More thank you's and packing events can be viewed on our FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/OCTNH>

Please contact me with any questions. Thank you for your continued support of OCT and our troops, Deborah Luszey, Operation Care for Troops, 603-321-5541

*Thank you email from NH National Guard from OCT's April packing.*

Good morning from Kuwait! We have all received your care packages! We all can't thank you enough for what your team has done. It is an exceptional feeling receiving mail when you're not expecting it!! On top of opening packages to see all the items and treats it was humbling to see the photos of those doing the labor-intensive work of packaging them all!!!!

It was a massive morale boost and was nice to see the SMs go through the packages to see what was inside. 3-197th FAR truly appreciates the time you have given us!

Thank you very much! V/r, SFC Sara R. McPherson, 3-197th FAR FWD".

## **VFW Elects Duane Sarmiento as New National Commander**

PHOENIX (July 27, 2023) — Duane Sarmiento of Gibbstown, New Jersey, was elected today as the new national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), a congressionally chartered veterans service organization comprised of approximately 1 million eligible combat veterans and military service members from all six branches of the armed forces.

"Today, I humbly stand here as a testament to the limitless potential of our great nation and a product of the American dream," said Sarmiento during his acceptance speech. "As a kid from New Jersey, I never imagined I would be standing here to accept such a prestigious position in one of the most prestigious institutions in our country."



Sarmiento's election as the VFW's 115th commander-in-chief occurred at the conclusion of the organization's 124th National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. The gathering was the first national convention held there since 2009. More than 10,000 members of the VFW and its Auxiliary converged on the city to conduct the business of the organization, recognize individuals and organizations for excellence and to elect new leadership for the 2023 – 2024 year.

Sarmiento, who is of mixed Filipino and Italian heritage, is the first person of color elected to lead the 124-year-old organization. He delivered remarks to those attending in person at the Phoenix Convention Center and watching via livestreaming video.

"As I look out into this sea of familiar faces, I am reminded of the shared experiences, the sacrifices and the bonds that have brought us together," said Sarmiento, to the delegates in attendance from all 52 Departments, which includes Europe and Asia. "We come from different walks of life, but we share a common thread — a deep love for our country and an unwavering dedication to veterans."

VFW membership eligibility requires honorable service in a war or expedition on foreign soil or in hostile waters. Sarmiento served in the United States Navy from 1988 to 1997, and the United States Naval Reserve from 2002 to 2006, earning his VFW eligibility by serving in Operations Desert Shield/Storm. In recognition of his service, he received the Navy Achievement Medal, Navy Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Good Conduct Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal with three campaign stars, the Saudi Arabian Medal for the Liberation of Kuwait, Kuwait Medal for the Liberation of Kuwait and numerous other medals and ribbons. In 2003, he earned the title of the Naval Reserve Center Sailor of the Year at Fort Dix.

"Throughout my time in the Navy, I witnessed firsthand the power of teamwork and the unbreakable spirit that binds us together as veterans," said Sarmiento. "Those formative years taught me so much about camaraderie and esprit de corps, it was only natural for me to join the ranks of the VFW, an organization that means so much to generations of veterans."

Sarmiento joined the VFW in 1990 at Post 5579 in Gibbstown, New Jersey, where he maintains his Gold Legacy Life membership. He has served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and Department levels, culminating with his election as the VFW Department of New Jersey Commander from 2018 to 2019. On the national level, he served as the VFW Inspector General from 2019 to 2020, and served on the National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee, General Resolutions Committee, and as Special Aide-de-Camp. He is a life member of the Military Order of the Cootie, at Ky-Yi Pup Tent #1 in Delaware.

"By embracing a leadership role within our organization, we can unlock its full potential, empowering the VFW to make an even greater impact on the lives of all veterans," said Sarmiento. "So, no matter at what level – Post, District or Department – step up, take the lead and you can make a difference in the VFW."

Though much of his speech was spent touting the programs, work and achievements of the VFW, Sarmiento took time to espouse the value of the members, showing his passion for the fraternal side of the organization.

"We have entrepreneurs who have built successful businesses, educators who have shaped young minds, and community leaders who have made a lasting impact. We have advocates who have fought tirelessly for the rights of veterans, and caregivers who have provided unwavering support to those in need," said Sarmiento, who retired as a police officer and director of Veterans Affairs in Gloucester County, New Jersey. "I'm here to tell you the most valuable resources to the Veterans of Foreign Wars are you – the members."

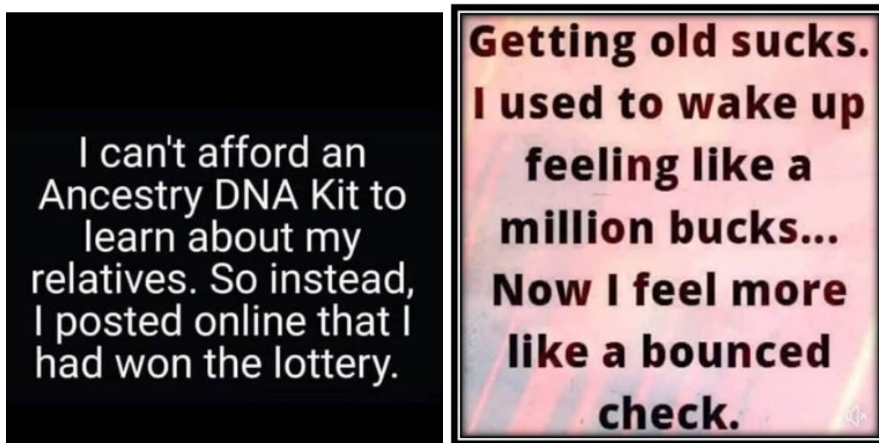
In addition to Sarmiento, other national officers elected were Al Lippardt, a Vietnam War veteran from the Department of Georgia, as Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, and Carol Whitmore, an Iraq War veteran from the Department of Iowa, as Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. The final day of the convention also saw Adjutant General Dan West and Quartermaster General Marc Garduno reconfirmed in their positions.

"Regardless of your pecking order in this organization, keep this in mind – you don't need a title to lead. You just need to care," said Sarmiento. "People would rather follow a leader with a heart than a leader with a title."

Sarmiento resides in Gibbstown, New Jersey with his wife Ellen.

### **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*



## Post Officers

**Commander:** Mark Tigert - (240) 344-8291, [chiefmt@gmail.com](mailto:chiefmt@gmail.com)

**Senior Vice Commander:** Mark Andrews  
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**Quartermaster:** Chris Lussier  
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**Service Officer:** Bruce Moran  
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**Junior Vice Commander:** George Robinson  
(540) 809-8696; [GMRobinson118@gmail.com](mailto:GMRobinson118@gmail.com)

**Chaplain:** Bruce Moran  
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**Adjutant:** Greg d'Arbonne  
(603) 672-5830; C: 978-604-8835; [gdarbo6844@aol.com](mailto:gdarbo6844@aol.com)

**Post Mailing Address:** VFW Post 11373, c/o Commander, PO Box 1012, Hollis, NH 03049

**Post Website:** <http://www.hollisvfw.org/>

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