



Hollis VFW

December 2025 Newsletter

Vol. 35 Issue: 12

Serving Hollis and Brookline

December 2025

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=bIA2NlZNMFo5cFhwVHlKUKVWtXMxZz09>; 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: 21 December at 7:00 pm

November 16th Meeting Minutes

Meeting Open Time: 7:00 PM at the Brookline American Legion Hall and via Zoom. 12 members and 1 guest (Charles [Chuck] Chapman) were present.

Reading of the Minutes: A motion was made by Bruce Moran to dispense with the reading of the October meeting minutes since they were published in the newsletter and sent to all members and that topics will be reviewed in the meeting. Bob Smith seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Post Quartermaster's Report: The Quartermaster's Report was read. General Fund account Deposits included: \$7.65 from Interest; donations from Gate City Casino \$47,513.19; Sean Brady Membership – \$35.00; total deposits \$47,633.92. Disbursements for the month were: \$320.00 to Patricia Dutra for cleaning services; \$2000.00 for Easter Seals Gala; \$100.00 for veteran 5-year AUSA Membership; \$31.50 Dues payment to National for Sean Brady; and. Total expenses were \$2,451.50. The Relief Fund expenses included: \$72.89 Reimbursement to Chris Lussier for Pedal Exerciser for Veteran;

\$250.00 to the National Home; Total Relief Fund expenses were \$322.89. Venmo Deposits include \$78.08 from Poppy Drive; Deductions include a \$0.06 typo correction. Bruce Moran made a motion that the Quartermaster's report be accepted as read, pending audit; seconded by Greg d'Arbonne, and unanimously approved.

Correspondence:

- Email from Paul Lloyd with November Issues of Headquarters Bulletin, General Orders, and Planning Calendar.
- Email from Paul Lloyd SB66-Call to action 30 Oct 2025 1:00 pm State House
- Email from Paul Lloyd announcing changes to the NHVH Christmas Party
- Email from Paul Lloyd with announcement from Gov Kelly Ayotte about lowering flags to half-staff in honor of the passing of former VP Dick Cheney.
- Email from Paul Lloyd with a guide for adding Patriot Pen Essays online.
- Emails with Jason Kelley at District about Patriots Pen.

Committee/Program Reports: Reporting is now accessed through the VFWNH.org website in the

Login drop-down menu <Report Entry>. These reports are the latest in each category.

- **Service Officer:** Several visits to visit a member in the hospital. Visits improved his demeanor from the first part of his stay to discharge.
- **Community Service:**
 - 29 October, 5, 12, 13 November – Weekly Veteran's Breakfasts in Hollis with numerous veterans from the community.



- **Americanism:**
 - 18 October – Four members led 500 people singing the National Anthem and the branch songs at the beginning of a gala fundraising event for Operation Delta Dog.
 - 5 November – Five members led the Pledge of Allegiance sang the National Anthem and the 6 service songs at a graduation ceremony for Veterans and their service dogs at Operation Delta Dog.



- 6 November – Twenty members attended the Hollis Brookline Middle School Veterans Day Ceremony presented by the staff and students. The school provided pastries and coffee prior to the ceremony followed by superb performances by the Choir and Band. The Veterans were welcomed by a round of applause as they entered the gymnasium for the event.
- 6 November – Members attended the Hollis Brookline High School Veterans Day event and luncheon presented by the school staff and students. The Veterans were welcomed with a round of applause entering the gymnasium. The Band performed the National Anthem and the 6 service songs beautifully. Post Quartermaster gave a wonderful speech to the students recognizing what being a Veteran and having his Veteran community around him means to him.
- 11 November – Members hosted the Hollis Veterans Day ceremony at the Hollis Community Church. One member was the Master of Ceremony; the Quartermaster was the guest speaker who really gave a heartfelt and inciteful speech. The Singing Vets Sang the National Anthem and the 6 service songs while the members of each service stood during their own service's song. The event was opened with the Church Reverend giving the invocation and closed with the benediction given by the Post Chaplin. The Daughters of the American Revolution provided a fantastic luncheon for all following the ceremony.
- **Youth Activities:**
 - 3 November – Post members attended the Veterans in the Classroom event at Hollis Brookline High School discussing Civics, Government, and the Constitution for 6 class periods.
 - 6 November - Eighteen members attended a luncheon with several students and talked with the students, answering many questions about our Veteran experience. The students were very knowledgeable and respectful.
 - 6 November – The Post Chaplin recited the poem ""Old Glory"" by Charlie Zahm to the

Hollis Brookline Middle School during their Veterans Day event honoring the community Veterans in honor of Veterans Day.

- 6 November – Post Quartermaster presented his collection of historical American Flags to the Hollis Brookline Middle School. He provided information on the history of each of the flags as they related to the changes on the flags over the 250 years.
- 8 November – Members set up poppy sales/donations/membership drive tables at the Hollis and Brookline Transfer stations. Members actively recruited for new members with several folks having interest in joining.
- 10 November – Members attended the Hollis Primary School Veterans Day event. K-3rd grade students provided a welcome to all the Veterans in attendance and sang Patriotic Songs. They also presented each Veteran with handmade Thank You cards. It was a wonderful ceremony ending with a parade of students thanking each Veteran for their service as they left the ceremony.



• **Legislative:**

- 18 October – 10 Members met with the Governor and the NH US Representative at a gala fundraiser for Operation Delta Dog. We discussed the value of Canine partnership as a solution of PTS and Veteran suicide.

• **Safety (Home/Fire):**

- 29 August – Two sets of handrails were installed on two sets of porch steps of a veteran's home ensuring safe access to yard area.

• **Veterans and Military Support:**

- 15 October – Five members visited WW2 Veteran upon his return home from the hospital. We brought libations and raised a toast to his impressive recovery. The event raised everyone's spirits, especially the WW2 Vet.
- 18 October – Post members attended a gala fundraising event in support of Operation Delta Dog to thwart and prevent veteran suicide.



- 29 October – Members provided the rifle detail for an Air Force Veteran, Bob Byrd, at Nashua Airport. Members sang the Air Force Song and paid respect during the ceremony.
- 4 November – Quartermaster participated in a tribute video production to be presented to Hospice Veterans on Veterans Day.
- 5 November – Seven post members attended the Operation Delta Dog graduation ceremony for 3 Veterans and their newly certified service dogs. After over 18 months of training for the rescue dogs and their newly matched Veterans the dogs' "In-

Training" harnesses were exchanged for certified service dog harnesses. Each Veteran gave a history of their needs and the changes from getting matched with their service dog and completing the rigorous training needed for graduation.

- 13 November – Four members attended the Holiday Card Challenge event at the Eversource Headquarters in Manchester, NH. They helped set up the event. They read and sorted 1500 cards (18,000 were sorted during the event) in preparation for mailing to Warriors around the world. The Singing Vets led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance, singing of the National Anthem and sang all the service songs for the Group. Television and Radio coverage highlighted the participation of the members on their news broadcasts.



- **Homeless Veterans:**

- 18 September – 4 Members attended the Franklin Military and Veterans Campus Ribbon Cutting, tours and celebration.

- **Hospital:**

- 13 October – Two members visited comrade in rehab hospital in two separate visits. One member assisted with physical therapy and spent time encouraging his progress. The local diner in Hollis provided a pumpkin muffin which he shared with his wife.
- 14 October – Post Quartermaster visited Comrade in rehab hospital and assisted in physical therapy: practicing standing with a walker and walking in the hallways. We think he might be discharged in another day and

returned home where he will have home assistance and PT.

- **National Home:** 19 October – Members approved a motion to donate \$250.00 to support the National Home.

- **Voice of Democracy programs:** We received no entries for the VOD program.

- **Patriot's Pen Program:** We have about 121 entries narrowed down to 8 for final ranking in the post (1 for each 15 entries).

- 15 November – The 8 entries were reviewed and ranked. George Robinson received an invitation to access the program software. George Robinson submitted 8 Entries into the online scholarship app and forwarded to District 6 competition.

- **Teach Scout:**

- 6 November – Post Quartermaster presented his personal flag collection while giving the history of each of the flags as they were changed throughout American History. He highlighted the types of flags as well as the significance representing the history of the development of the United States.

- **Military Descendant Scholarship:** George Robinson gave the announcement to the HBHS Guidance office for posting in Naviance as a scholarship opportunity. He will work that in December.

Comrade or Family of Comrade in distress:

- Mark Andrew's friend, USAF veteran Bob Byrd passed away. We were requested to attend and provide the rifle detail to support the service on 29 October at 1400. Location was Hangar 91 at Nashua Airport. USAF provided the Flag and Taps detail. Mark Andrews, Chris Lussier, Bruce Moran, Greg d'Arbonne will provided the rifle detail. Other members were also in attendance.

- Mark Tigert discovered a tick, removed it, and now has a bullseye indicating Lyme Disease.

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.

Old Business:

- At the June meeting, George Robinson stated that with the Nation's 250th Birthday coming up next year, the Post should purchase banners celebrating this event and place them at the major crossroads in both Towns, a total of 8 banners. George will investigate costs, what needs to be done and permissions that are needed. It was agreed that he attend the select board meeting to discuss.
- George Robinson has not presented the 250th telephone pole banner idea to Hollis or Brookline yet because he wanted members to be aware of a better cost estimate before doing so. He requested a quote from a local vendor in Amherst, but doesn't have it, yet. He is also trying to track down the company that Bedford used for their town anniversary banners, which have held up well and retained their color for the last many months. The prices from online resources vary wildly, but the one he is most comfortable with is about \$145 per banner, including mounting hardware. That's about twice the cost anticipated when the idea was presented, so he doesn't think we should move forward with the offer to the towns until members can vote on an actual price...unless they're prepared to authorize "not to exceed \$1500 for 10 banners", which is a pretty high price tag. Quotes received ranged from \$1200 to \$4400. This does not include any costs associated with the DPW putting up the banners or the police escort to support the installation. Also, the town does not own the telephone poles. Chris Lussier made a motion to table this motion until decisions are made by the town 250th committees and to then determine how we may support the effort. Greg d'Arbonne seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. (TABLED)
- Kerry Spangler proposed changes to the By-Laws to indicate meetings being the 3rd Sunday each month with the exception of June being the 4th Sunday because of the conflict with Father's Day. Jim Belanger seconded the motion and was unanimously approved. Kerry Spangler has drafted the changes and sent the draft with the monthly Newsletter for review for approval at the July meeting. No comments received. Final copy will be signed and Kerry Spangler will take to the District 6 Meeting in August for District Approval. (Editor's Note: Bylaws were submitted to Department Adjutant Paul Lloyd.) (OPEN)
- Kerry Spangler has developed a spreadsheet to use as a checklist for all events being worked by the Post. Assistance in identifying all the components of all events will be required. (OPEN)
- Chris Lussier and Kerry Spangler met with the Gate City Casino coordinator to get the final dates for the Hollis VFW charitable gaming the week of September 9th. Check was received. (CLOSED)
- Veterans Day Ceremony will begin at 11:00, November 11th at the Hollis Community Church at Memorial Square. Greg d'Arbonne will be the master of ceremony and Chris Lussier will be the guest speaker. We also need to identify a guest speaker. It was recommended we keep the same timeframe and format as in the past Veteran's Day events. Greg d'Arbonne will be the Master of Ceremony, Chris Lussier will be the guest speaker. Chris will provide the PA, Greg will bring the lectern. There are several activities at the schools with dates and times published in the October Newsletter. It was an outstanding event, and the Daughters of the American Revolution provided a wonderful lunch after the ceremony. Thanks to the Hollis Community Church for the ceremony (CLOSED)
- Inspection document preparations – Our inspection occurred prior the November 16th meeting at 6:00 PM. Chris Lussier and Kerry Spangler assembled the binder for the inspection. Charles Chapman conducted the inspection, and the Post obtained a 100% rating. The Quartermaster and Adjutant were highlighted for their outstanding achievement. (CLOSED)
- Veterans Day School Ceremonies: As always, the schools provided outstanding ceremonies for the attending Veterans. (CLOSED)

- 3 November – HBHS Veterans in a Classroom – 7:40 am first session begins (Invitation Only)
- 6 November – Veterans Day Events at HBMS & HBHS. Coffee and breakfast treats will be available starting around 7:45 a.m., and the assembly will begin approximately at 8:15 a.m. The high school plans for arrival around 9:30 a.m.
- 10 November – Veterans Day Events at Hollis Primary School – 8:45 a.m. and Hollis Upper Elementary School - Pizza lunch at 1pm....program at 1:45pm.
- 11 November – Veterans Day Events at 11:00 at the Hollis Community Church
- Teacher of the Year for 2025 – Nomination due to District by 15 November 2025. Decision was made on the candidate. Kerry Spangler will put the write-up together. The person selected for our candidate is not eligible not being an active, certified teacher. (CLOSED)
- Wreaths Across America Brookline - 13 December 2025 at 12:00 pm. A link for donations for wreaths is on our Post Facebook page. Stew Jackson will provide TAPS.(OPEN).
- Wreaths across Hollis is tentatively scheduled for 7 December at 1:00 pm. Stew Jackson will provide TAPS. Bruce Moran will offer prayers. Recommend doing the Temple Beth Abraham Cemetery in Nashua on this day as well.(OPEN).
- Operation Delta Dog Graduation was on 5 November at 5:00 pm at the Lawrence Barn. Singing Vets sang National Anthem and Service songs. Other members attended.(CLOSED).
- Poppy Drive 8 November at Hollis and Brookline Transfer Stations. Town residents were very generous at both locations. (CLOSED)
- Membership and Attendance incentives
 - Kerry Spangler made a motion for the Post to pay the first-year membership dues for new members to welcome them. Greg d'Arbonne seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Actions completed.(CLOSED)
- Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to pay lifetime memberships for any continuous members over the age of 65. Many over 65 are on limited income and possibly could have problems paying the annual dues. This would return us to what was done several years ago. Andy Seremeth seconded the motion and unanimously approved. Actions completed. (CLOSED)
- Bob Smith credited our visits to his speedy recovery after his fall. He requested a floor exercise cycle that is motorized. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to purchase the machine \$72.89 for Bob, seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. Chris Lussier will order and deliver the machine. Delivered.(CLOSED)
- Chris Lussier made the required donation to the VSO. (CLOSED)
- Bruce Moran made a motion to purchase a table for 10 for \$2000.00 for the Easter Seals Veterans Count Gala fundraiser on 8 November. Motion was seconded by Chris Lussier and unanimously approved. Names to be provided to Bruce Moran. (CLOSED)
- Kerry Spangler made a motion for the Post to donate \$250.00 to the National Home, seconded by Greg d'Arbonne and unanimously approved. (CLOSED)
- Tabled from October meeting - Mark Andrews presented information on Operation High Flight (501 3c), a non-profit organization to support veterans, children's hospitals, first responders and inner-city youth through mentoring and other activities. The operation is looking for a store front and hangar space to support the program and is soliciting donations to support this program. They can sell flights as raffle prizes to help raise money for Veterans organizations. The VFW could buy flights and raffle them or give as gifts for \$125 to \$300. Raffles and auctions are being used to support organizations. 100% of the proceeds are given to the hosting organization. Chuck Chapman asked Mark Andrews to reach out to the Hudson VFW Post to participate during their future meat raffles. Their goal is to hit 50 flights.

The post will look at methods of support for this non-profit. (OPEN)

New Business:

- George Robinson stated the SSGT Alan H. Soifert Memorial monument at the Hollis-Brookline High School is beginning to lean forward. In the summer, we need to look at fixing the memorial by lifting it and providing a more solid base. Sean Brady will check with the Scouts to see if they have someone who needs a project. (TABLED)
- Christmas carols will once again be sung by Post members and Scouts at the Hollis senior living facility on 16 December from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. Chris Lussier will bring his guitar, and members are invited to attend. (OPEN)
- Citizen of the Year: Need to start submitting names of nominees to be ready to vote in February. (OPEN)

Good of the Order:

- Mark Andrews had the honor of pinning SSgt stripes for his daughter, a combat medic. She is a great leader and well-deserving.
- Mark Tigert has 30 guns for 30 days raffle tickets available.
- Mark Tigert brought several copies of the book "Once a Warrior, Always a Warrior" for anyone wanting to read it. It could benefit anyone transitioning from the military back to civilian life.
- We still need to get project pictures to Jim Belanger to post on the website. Also, please send them to Kerry Spangler for use in the monthly newsletter.

- Guest Speaker Chuck Chapman – Senior Vice Commander VFW District 6:
 - He announced our awesome inspection results and gave kudos to QM and Adjutant.
 - Hudson is hosting a fundraising GALA, 22 November, for the Children's Home in Nashua and Margarets's Place.
 - Go check out the Hudson Post, very nice facility. Hosting during the Army/Navy game on 13 December. Join then for the food and fellowship.
 - Hudson Post is available for rental.
 - Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy – a growing process that needs to be made easier that also follow school rules. Trying to determine how we can get it done.
 - Reach out anytime to District if you need anything.
- The Knights of Columbus donated 24 knitted Patriotic Afghans and one blanket. We need to decide what we want to do with them. Andy Seremeth suggested sending them to the VA in Manchester. If they have any leftover, they can send them to the Tilton Home. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to send them to the Manchester VA with instructions to either send the leftover ones to Tilton or contact us so that we can take them. Mark Andrews seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.
- George Robinson is a teacher and he stated that fewer and fewer students have knowledge of what happened on December 7, 1941. Find ways to keep the memory going. Talk about it with kids and younger adults.

Closing: Chris Lussier made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Greg d'Arbonne and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM. The next meeting is at 7:00 PM, Sunday, 21 December 2025, at the Brookline American Legion Hall, Brookline, NH, and by Zoom.

News For & From Members

Calendar of Events

Added/Changed events are highlighted in yellow.

Nov 2025

- 22 November – Gala at the Hudson VFW for the Nashua Children's Home and Margaret's Place.

Dec 2025

- 7 December – Wreaths across America Hollis event 1:00 pm.
- 13 December – Wreaths Across America Brookline event 12:00 pm.
- 13 December – Hudson VFW Post hosting the Army/Navy game for any members wishing to attend.
- 16 December – Christmas Carols at the Hollis Seniors Center, 7:00 to 8:00 pm.
- 21 December – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 18 December – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.

Jan 2026

- 25 January – District 6 Meeting, Merrimack Post.
- 18 January – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 22 January – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall

Feb 2026

- 15 February – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 28 February – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 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 as 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>.

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. – Kerry Spangler

Don't forget our Wednesday Morning Breakfasts at 8:00 at the Hollis Marketplace Diner. All Veterans are welcome.

Reach out to other members to encourage them to attend the meetings...the more the merrier and the more we can be aware of and accomplish with more participation.

Get VFW project pictures and articles to Jim Belanger and/or to Kerry Spangler for inclusion in the VFW website and newsletter.

How do different military branches use stars?

The Army sleeps under the stars. The Navy navigates by the stars. The Air Force chooses hotels by the stars.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving holiday!

Kerry Spangler Adjutant

Post Officers

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

E-mail addresses are for the use of the members to pass information and not to be sold or freely passed to others without formal consent of the member. No funds solicitation is authorized via e-mail.

**Wreaths Across America is coming to
Brookline!**

**Our goal is to place a wreath on all the
Veteran's graves this December. Please
consider sponsoring a wreath or giving
a cash donation.**

**Ceremony and Wreath Laying
December 13, 2025 12PM**

Pine Grove Cemetery

To Sponsor a wreath(s)

**<http://www.wreathsbacrossamerica.org>
/NH0052**



WREATHS
— across —
AMERICA

Cash Donations

accepted on Venmo:



**Questions or want to sign up to
help?**

Email:

wreathsbacrossbrookline@gmail.com

The time is now to start thinking of potential VFW Day of Service Projects set to kick off 2 May 2026.



VFW DAY OF SERVICE 2026

TRICARE Open Enrollment 10 November – 9 December



TRICARE Enrollment Now Open: TRICARE Open Season began Nov. 10 and will run through Dec. 9, giving eligible beneficiaries the chance to enroll in or change health plans for 2026. Active duty members and those with TRICARE For Life are not affected. Beneficiaries can make changes online through milConnect, by phone or by mail, and should verify their Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System information. Changes made during this period will take effect on Jan. 1. [Read more.](#)