



Hollis VFW

January 2025 Newsletter

Vol. 35 Issue: 1

Serving Hollis and Brookline

January 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: 19 January @ 7:00 pm



December Meeting Minutes

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

Reading of the Minutes: A motion was made by Bruce Moran to dispense with the reading of the November meeting minutes since they published in the newsletter and sent to all members. Alex Crowther seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Post Quartermaster's Report: The Quartermaster's Report was read. The Post received \$10.06 from Interest; \$678.01 Poppy Donations, and \$2,000.00 from Brookline American Legion Post 74 for the monument progress payment loan totaling \$2,688.07 Disbursements for the month were: \$1,000.00 to Mark Robinson for the scholarship; \$220 for cleaning services and \$50.00 to John Balfour for cleanup of the church after the Veteran's Day ceremony totaling \$1,270.00. Bruce Moran made

a motion that the Quartermaster's report be accepted as read, pending audit; seconded by Bob Smith, and unanimously approved.

Correspondence: Kerry Spangler sent two emails to the Department of NH Adjutant, Paul Lloyd. The first telling him about the passing of Stephen Kolesnik, WWII veteran with no family and requesting him to send out notices to the state VFW posts requesting attendance at his funeral. The second email thanking him for getting the word out and seeing over 200 veterans and others attending the funeral. Kerry Spangler also sent an email to the Horsepond Fish and Game in Nashua NH, where Stephen Kolesnik was a lifetime member, notifying them of his passing. VFW Bank Statements. Chris Lussier sent a letter to Reverend Tanya thanking the Hollis Congregational Church for the use of the facility for the Veterans Day ceremony.

Committee Reports:

- Patriot's Pen Program: George Robinson invited our winners of the essay writing contest and Voice of Democracy Program to our January VFW Meeting. We will present the awards at the beginning of the meeting. Our 1st and 2nd place essay winners also won 1st and 2nd at District. The 1st place winner will now compete at the Department Level and has been invited to the Scholastic Banquet. She would like to bring 1 guest. Tickets are \$45 per ticket. Chris Lussier made a motion to authorize reimbursement to George Robinson for the winner (if not paid by Department), two guests and George to attend the banquet for a total of \$135, Seconded by Andy Seremeth and unanimously approved. (Editor's Note – Ticket price is \$50)
- Voice of Democracy programs: Nothing additional to report.
- Andy Seremeth asked if we are still participating in the school end of year ceremony to recognize these winners in front of their peers. George Robinson indicated that he is coordinating that with the social studies teachers and principal to participate.
- Service Officer: Nothing to report.

Membership: Nothing to report.

Old Business:

- Casino Fund Raiser for the Post: Chris Lussier is planning on writing an end-of-year letter to the Gate City Casino thanking them and showing what the Post has been doing with the funds with pictures.
- Greg d'Arbonne will draft a letter for review and then send it to the Towns' Welfare Departments in Hollis and Brookline and let them know that the Post will help cover any needs the Towns cannot provide for a Veteran or the spouse of a Veteran.
- Jim Belanger indicated that the Zoom Meeting sound keeps cutting out during discussions primarily when noise occurs and it takes a few seconds to reset. Kerry Spangler brought in microphones and a speaker unit to increase the volume. Jeff Smith indicated that it helped

but the volume needs to be a bit louder. Kerry will place the speaker closer to the camera microphone at the next meeting.

- State Veteran's Advisory Committee is building a Global War on Terrorism monument at Boscawen Cemetery. They are selling bricks for \$250 to help fund the project. Greg d'Arbonne made the motion to purchase a brick that says "Hollis VFW Post 11373 for \$250.00 seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. (OPEN). Greg d'Arbonne needs to provide the information to Chris Lussier to submit.

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:

- Christmas caroling at the senior center with the scouts, 17 Dec at 7 PM. Chris will bring his guitar and bells.
- We need to look at nominations for the Citizen of the year award that meet the criteria for the award. Decision needs to be made by the February meeting for the town meeting in March.
- Bob Heyer passed away. Services expected in January 2025.
- Guns Raffle tickets available. See Mark Tigert for tickets.

Comrade or Family of Comrade in distress:

- Bruce Moran's knee brace is off!
- Steve Kolesnik, WWII Veteran at Premier Rehabilitation passed away on Dec 1. Steve's funeral was held on December 10, at the Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen, NH with over 200 veterans and others in attendance.
- There is another veteran (Eugene Burgeous) in hospice care at the Premier Rehabilitation Facility. We need to plan on visiting him soon.

Good of the Order:

- Bruce Moran stated that at the Veterans Count ceremony, Two WWII veterans were recognized by the Veterans Quilting Society of Merrimac with a quilt. However, they were one short. On their behalf, Bruce presented Bob Smith with a quilt honoring his service.
 - Hollis VFW Post 11373 and Brookline American Legion Post 74 were highlighted in local and national news stories with the outpouring of support for WWII US Navy veteran Stephen Kolesnik, who had no known living relatives or family. He passed away peacefully with our Quartermaster, Chris Lussier at his side. We know that he passed away assured that his "Veteran Family" would attend his funeral services. Over 200 Veterans from the northeast attended his graveside service in Boscawen, NH on a very cold day in December. Hollis VFW Post 11373 provided the chaplain and gun detail. The US Navy provided the Flag Folding and Taps. The folded flag was presented to Becky Parkhurst, Hospice volunteer who connected Stephen with his veteran family through Deb Lussier.
 - Stephen was a member of the Major General Henry Knox, Boston MA, Masonic Lodge for Veterans. Alex Crowther will notify the lodge about Stephen's passing.
- Closing:** The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM. The next meeting is 7:00 PM, Sunday, 19 January at the Brookline American Legion Hall, Brookline, NH and by Zoom.

News For & From Members

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Calendar of Events

Added/Changed events are highlighted in yellow.

January 2025

- 19 January: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 23 January: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.

February 2025

- 16 February: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 27 February: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.

March 2025

- 16 March: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 27 March: 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>.

VFW 125th Anniversary Kickoff

Commanders and Comrades, A momentous occasion is quickly approaching ... on September 29, 2025 the VFW will celebrate its 125th anniversary!

This is cause for celebration and one we should all take great pride in as the VFW has remained at the forefront in the fight for veterans for 125 years - making certain those willing to sacrifice everything for our great nation are treated with the respect they have earned for ensuring our freedom.

I'm writing to you today to make you aware of several items related to the VFW 125th Anniversary as your involvement is what will truly make our celebration a success.

- We've developed a host of resources for your use in helping us promote the campaign, maintain consistency across the organization, and support those who support us. These resources include a *ceremonial logo and usage guide, various ads, a proclamation, certificates of appreciation, sample press releases, and more.

**Note: The ceremonial logo should be incorporated into your outreach materials as appropriate. It is not meant to replace the official VFW logo on all material. Please use sound judgement on application opportunities.*

- Further, you will be the catalyst to get your community involved in commemorating the contributions of all veterans and their family members to our country during the VFW 125th Anniversary year, therefore we've also instituted a VFW 125th Anniversary Post Community Program open to ALL Posts.

Please access the resources and information I've referenced by logging into vfw.org and selecting the VFW 125th Anniversary link under Member/Post Resources from the My VFW page. You can also access these items in the Communications & Public Affairs section of Training and Support of vfw.org.

Also coming soon is a new line of special edition anniversary items to the VFW Store. These items will debut onsite and online during the 125th National Convention in Louisville.

The VFW 125th Anniversary campaign will publicly commence on **June 5** with the launch of a website (vfw125.org) dedicated to the campaign and a national press release and will conclude at the close of our 126th national convention. **Please refrain from public display of any promotional assets until June 5.**

There will be more information to come over the next several months regarding special events and other ways we're working to honor this important event.

Thank you for your support in our endeavor to celebrate this important occasion in our organization's history! For questions, please email communications@vfw.org.

Dan West, Adjutant General, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

VFW 125th Anniversary Kickoff

Comrades, as we head into our Department Convention this weekend I would like to ask a favor of you. I have had some difficulty recruiting a full slate of appointed positions for our next year 2024-2025.

I have been pounding the pavement (and phone and email), for the past 6 months, to recruit the Department Staff. I have fallen short on a number of positions:

- Homeless Veterans
- POW/MIA, Americanism/Loyalty Day
- Fire/EMT/Police Safety Chairman
- Sergeant at Arms

If anyone is interested in the following positions please let me know. If you need additional information on what the positions entails please reach out to me or Adjutant Lloyd. I can be reached at: andrew_corrow@yahoo.com; (603) 397-9267.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

AJ Corrow, Department Senior Vice Commander



VFW Posts and veterans from coast to coast are signing up for the fourth annual VFW Day of Service, which kicks off May 3, 2025. [Will you join them?](#)

If you're wondering what kinds of events to plan, or if you have other questions, look no further. Our website has lots of great resources.

- This handy [FAQ page](#) has answers to all your questions.
- [Check out the list of 100 ideas](#) for Day of Service.
- If you're on a solo mission, we've got you covered with [individual service project ideas](#).

Let us know you're all in. [Sign up for 2025](#) so we can keep you in the loop and track your event!

[Sign Up for Day of Service 2025](#)

VFW Joins TikTok's 'Veteran Voices' Initiative

The VFW joins nine fellow veteran-serving organizations on TikTok to connect with and rally support for veterans

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (Nov. 20, 2024) – The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is proud to announce the launch of [its TikTok channel](#), joining nine fellow veteran-serving organizations as part of TikTok's new "Veteran Voices" initiative. Veteran Voices focuses on key challenges afflicting the military and veteran community — mental health, affordable housing, and employment. Together, these trusted organizations will leverage TikTok's influential community of creators and engage audiences to provide critical support to those in need.

“In this day and age, many veterans aren't going to walk into a VFW Post, so you have to meet them where they are,” said VFW National Commander Al Lipphardt. “Nothing beats a warm handshake and looking someone square in the eye to let them know you care about them. But if we want to have that chance, we need to let them know first we exist. In joining TikTok's Veteran Voices campaign, we now have a platform to connect with service members and young veterans where they like to link up, consuming the content they care about.”

Veteran-serving organizations supporting the Veteran Voices initiative alongside the VFW are: America's Warrior Partnership, Elizabeth Dole Foundation, Independence Fund, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, Student Veterans of America (SVA), Team Rubicon, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) and Wounded Warrior Project.



In addition to providing comprehensive training tailored specifically for nonprofits, which includes guidance on LIVE, content creation, and platform safety to maximize their impact and reach on the platform, TikTok will also be launching a newly updated donation sticker this fall, allowing users to support the organizations above. This feature will empower its online community to contribute directly to causes they support and create a community dedicated to making a meaningful impact.

One in three U.S. veterans report using TikTok monthly based on data available via GWI Core, measured in Q2 2024 among internet users ages 16-64. Through continued collaboration with nonprofit organizations, creators, and our TikTok community, we look forward to continuing to raise awareness and foster a community where veterans are supported — during Veterans Day and beyond.

Be sure to [follow the VFW on TikTok](#) and help us raise awareness and make an even bigger impact #FORVETERANS.

PFAS Lawsuit Claim Information from the National Legislative Committee

There is an ongoing multi-district lawsuit against the manufacturers of firefighting foam and other PFAS containing materials used prevalently throughout the country, including on and around military installations, regardless of branch served in. The deadline for filing a suit is coming up in March 2025, and I will not be able to go in the field again like I did with Lejeune, but I am reaching out to dept. VSOs and Adjutants to spread the word and keep an eye out. If I can help, I certainly will, and if not, no worse for the wear. I just want to be sure someone who may have a case finds out if they do or not, rather than leave it on the table.

Appreciate you sharing my email and/or phone number (608) 209-0805 with your Council so if they know/come across anyone who may fit the following criteria:

Pretty straightforward: any veteran or their loved one who has been diagnosed with liver cancer, kidney cancer, testicular cancer, or ulcerative colitis, from the year 2000-present.

Let me know if you have any questions and thanks in advance for getting folks in touch with me to see if I can help them out!

Cheers,

Jason E. Johns

National Legislative Committee

Past State Commander-WI (2020-2021)

WIA-Purple Heart-26 Oct 2003-Iraq

1

New Hampshire Smiles Program

for adults (Medicaid) if eligible

www.dentaquest.com

1-877-248-6684



2

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits

if eligible

www.va.gov/health-care/about-va-health-benefits/dental-care

1-800-698-2411

3

Traditional dental insurance

DeltaDentalCoversMe.com

or

VA Dental Insurance Program (VADIP)

www.va.gov/health-care/about-va-health-benefits/dental-care/dental-insurance



Oral health care for Veterans: 7 options

Every Veteran deserves access to the oral health care they need to maintain optimal health. Based on eligibility, Veterans seeking care can take advantage of one of these seven possible options in New Hampshire.

4

Dental Lifeline Network's Donated Dental Services Program

<https://dentallifeline.org/new-hampshire>

603-826-6408

5

New Hampshire Dental Society - Take Five Veterans program

603-225-5961



6

Northeast Delta Dental Veteran Oral Health Care program

if veteran does not qualify through options 1-5

603-223-1300

7

New Hampshire community based dental clinics

www.nedelta.com/community-based-dental-clinics



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

I hope that everyone has a Happy and Safe New Year Celebration!

Kerry Spangler

Post Officers

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Service Officer: Bruce Moran

(H: 603-465-7611; C: 603-465-1040; bruce.moran@hotmail.com)

Junior Vice Commander: George Robinson

(540) 809-8696; GMRobinson118@gmail.com

Chaplain: Bruce Moran

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