



# Hollis VFW

## July 2020 Newsletter

Vol. 30 Issue: 7

*Serving Hollis and Brookline*

July 2020

*The Hollis VFW meets the third Sunday of each month.*

*Meetings in April through September are at the American Legion Hall, 38 Main Street, Brookline, NH and begin at 7 PM.*

*Meetings from October through March are at the Hollis Town Hall, 7 Monument Square, Hollis, NH and begin at 2 PM.*

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

***Next Meeting: 19 July, 7 pm.***

***This is will be an in-person meeting.***

### June Meeting Minutes

Meeting Open Time: 7:09 PM at the American Legion Hall in Brookline, NH by Commander Mark Tigert. 8 members present and no guests present.

**Membership Applications:** Jim Bélanger stated he spoke to David Warner of Hollis and asked David and his son, an Afghanistan Veteran, to join.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Bruce Moran to dispense with the verbal reading of the Minutes as they were published in the June newsletter; seconded by Andy Seremeth and unanimously approved.

**Quartermaster's Report:** The Quartermaster's Report was read. The Post paid the annual fee for the Post Office Box in the amount of \$106. A deposit to the account in the amount of \$750 was made on 3 June but will not be reflected in the account until the July report. Additionally, the Post collected \$1,065.76 in donations from the Poppy sale Saturday and that will be deposited this week. Bruce Moran made a motion that the Quartermasters report be accepted as read, pending audit; seconded by Andy Seremeth and unanimously approved.

**Correspondence:** Nothing received.

**Comrade in Distress:**

- Chris Lussier received a phone call from Bob Smith. Bob was up in Maine and he fell, gashed his head, and broke his hip. He is currently at an acute care center but will be moved as soon as able. At present his son is trying to locate a facility that is appropriate for his care and accepts his HMO. Bob will let Chris know where he ends up. Bob will need to stay still for about six weeks.
- Greg d'Arbonne stated that at the American Legion meeting Dave Larkin stated his lung cancer and lymphoma is cleared but he will get a PET scan as there is a spot on an adrenal gland.

**Committee Reports:**

- Service Officer: Hospitals are still restricting visitors due to the virus.
- Hollis Citizen of the Year was presented at the Hollis Town Meeting on 20 June.

- VOD/PP/Teacher for 2020-2021: Andy Seremeth stated he participated in a virtual presentation of the Patriot Pen Award to the Middle School. Our winner not only received the Patriot Pen Award, but she also received an award in National History, the Spanish Club, and the Science and Humanitarian Award. He stated the Assistant Principal did a great job with the virtual award ceremony for the students.

**Old Business:**

- Memorial Day: The members discussed the Event. There was a concern about conflicting guidance between our own SOP and what the Town coordinators may want for the ceremony. It was determined the Town is responsible for the ceremony and therefore, they decide on the Guest Speaker and sequence of events.
- Poppy Drive: Chris Lussier stated the Post collected \$1,065.76 in donations from the Poppy Drive this past Saturday. This is about average, so the COVID-19 restrictions did not have much impact on our Poppy Drive. There was only one complaint about the setup not having enough social distancing and some people not wearing masks while outside but that was the only complaint.
- Flag Disposal Box at Transfer Station: Chris Lussier stated the new Flag Disposal container at the Transfer Station was already full even after he emptied it a few weeks ago to bring flags to the Brookline American Legion Flag Retirement Ceremony. Chris stated the container is excellent as it kept out rainwater and was being used. The Post thanks Boy Scout Jack Robinson for doing such an excellent job on the container.

**New Business:**

- Church Renovations: George Robinson briefed the members on the progress of the Hollis Congregational Church renovations and amphitheater project. He stated the earliest the project would start is next Spring or Summer. He stated Boy Scout Troop 12 may do some of the work as a project for those working toward Eagle and other ranks. Bruce Moran made a motion that the Post agree with the current plans put forth by the Church regarding Memorial Park; seconded by Andy Seremeth and unanimously approved.

- George Robinson briefed the members that a memorial stone was found on the Church property in the corner of the cemetery. The stone says it is in memory of the Wheeler brothers who served in the New Hampshire Regiment in 1755 during the French and Indian War. The stone must be relocated to do the project. George was not able to ascertain if the brothers died during the war or it was made in their memory as Veterans of the war; he is continuing to research about them. George recommended that we consider where the stone should be relocated; one possibility is the corner of Broad Street and Wheeler Road. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion that if they died in the war, the stone should be moved to Memorial Park, and if not, the Post can decide later where the stone should be relocated; seconded by Russ Norris and unanimously approved.
- Reimbursement for Patriots Pen Award: Andy Seremeth stated he was reimbursed by the Post for this year's awards. He stated that the cost of awards for the Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy Awards could keep rising as more children participate. He recommended we discuss this before next year's awards are presented.
- Chris Lussier stated the new Manual for the VFW is available and needs to be purchased. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion that the Post purchases two manuals to be used for the coming year; seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved.
- Old Home Days: Old Home Days is cancelled for this year, but the fireworks are still a go.
- Chris Lussier stated in the past we have given Life Memberships to members who have showed up to 8 or more meetings during the year and participated in Post activities on a regular basis. He stated there are some members who may meet these criteria and we should continue the "tradition". After discussion, it was determined that there is no one currently eligible.

The Post said prayers for the National Home and their residents and thanked God for granting our prayers with the safe return of Mark Andrews from Afghanistan.

**General Orders:** As distributed by the Department and District and they are posted on the Department

website. It was noted the Department is not updating the website in a timely manner.

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

- The Brookline American Legion Post will conduct a 4th of July Ceremony in front of the Brookline Town Hall at 10 AM on the 4th of July.
- Russ Norris briefed the members on various VFW news. He is now the State Senior Vice Commander.
  - The testimonial dinner for the outgoing State Commander, Chris Pierce is 25 July.
  - The Council of Administration will be 15 August in Winchester.

- The members discussed if the Post should invite political candidates to speak at a Post meeting. It was decided a Post meeting was not appropriate. Russ Norris suggested the candidates speak at a District or State meeting.
- Jim Bélanger stated he spoke to Claire Kelley, widow of former Post Commander Bob Kelley. He also said his granddaughter is stationed in Stuttgart, Germany with the Air Force.
- Chris Lussier stated we can have our August meeting at his house as we have done in the past. After the meeting we will have a social.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM. The next meeting is Sunday, 19 July at 7 PM. The meeting will be a physical meeting unless the State changes their guidance on gatherings.

## News For & From Members

### Calendar of Events

Added/Changed events are **highlighted in yellow**. Please contact me with any questions. Thanks! – Greg d'

#### **July:**

- 19 Jul: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline American Legion Hall
- 23 Jul: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline American Legion Hall

#### **August:**

- 16 Aug: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Chris Lussier's House, 34 Love Lane, Hollis
- 27 Aug: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline American Legion Hall

#### **September:**

- 12 Sep: Hollis Old Home Days is cancelled
- 20 Sep: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline American Legion Hall
- 24 Sep: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline American Legion Hall

#### **October:**

- 18 Oct: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 2 PM, Hollis Town Hall
- 22 Oct: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline American Legion Hall

## **November:**

- 15 Nov: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 2 PM, Hollis Town Hall
- 19 Nov: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline American Legion Hall

## **December:**

- 17 Dec: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline American Legion Hall
- 20 Dec: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 2 PM, Hollis Town Hall

## **January:**

- 17 Jan: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 2 PM, Hollis Town Hall
- 28 Jan: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline American 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! Thanks!

## **News of Interest to Veterans**

### **VFW Stands for Equality, Condemns Vandalism of WWII Memorial**

*'The veterans who fought for the very freedom to demonstrate deserve better and we condemn those who determined the memorial was worth vandalizing'*

WASHINGTON (June 1, 2020) – In the wake of the nationwide protests centered around the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) stands in solidarity for equality, however, condemns the vandalism of the World War II Memorial and other memorials near the National Mall.

“Equality is the cornerstone of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and must be in our great nation,” said VFW National Commander William “Doc” Schmitz. “Bigotry and unequal treatment has zero place in this world.”

Unfortunately, the “sacred” World War II Memorial was vandalized May 31 during protests in Washington.

“The VFW believes in peaceful, organized demonstrations. That is the right of every American,” said Schmitz. “However, we are extremely saddened and angered to find that our sacred World War II Memorial was defaced. The veterans who fought for the very freedom to demonstrate deserve better and we condemn those who determined the memorial was worth vandalizing.”

### **Operation Care for Troops Update**

Hello Everyone, I hope everyone is safe and doing well. It has been a few months since our last communications thought I would let you know what is going on. Our April event was cancelled due to the stay-at-home order as well as our Comcast Cares Day event. Although Comcast had to cancel their event, Comcast graciously granted funds to Operations Care for Troops to help keeps us going. A big THANK YOU shout out to Comcast and its employees for their continued support of Operation Care for Troops!!

Operation Care for Troops is still planning to hold our August packing event. We are waiting to hear from the National Guard regarding guidelines for using the Nashua Armory. Once I have the information, I will send an update.

Please stay safe and hope to see you soon.

### **VSO Support in the Keene, Claremont, and Western Part of NH**

For those Veterans who live out in the Keene, Claremont, and Western part of NH, the Veteran Services Officer who usually works that area will be unable to assist you for a while. Until he returns, we are asking any Veteran or Surviving Spouse (or family member assisting a Veteran or Surviving Spouse) to reach out to Cynthia Fisher (NH Division of Veteran’s Services Admin) at (603) 624-9230 Ext 301 and she will get you an appointment with another Service Officer who can assist you in the interim.

We have no idea how long our Service Officer will be out of commission, so we want to make sure no one gets forgotten about out there. Thank you!

William Gaudreau (USN Ret), Director, Division of Veteran Services, Department of Military Affairs and Veteran Services

### **VA Centralized Authorized Emergency Care (CAEC) notification process**

Beginning June 8, Veterans, community-based, non-VA hospitals, their family or friends must email [VHAEmergencyNotification@va.gov](mailto:VHAEmergencyNotification@va.gov), or call 1-844-72HRVHA (844-724-7842) within 72 hours from the start of a Veterans ER visit or emergent hospital stay. Criteria for emergency visits are the same.

### **Updated NH State Veterans Cemetery COVID-19 Policy – Effective June 15, 2020**

As of Monday, June 15th there is no longer a restriction on the number of guests that can attend a service. We strongly recommend that guests wear masks while attending

services. Social distancing from cemetery staff, clergy, Honor Guard, and funeral directors is required. Social distancing among guests is strongly suggested. Pall bearers, family and/or funeral directors will move the casket, if applicable. We do request that face coverings are worn.

Military Honors are being conducted by all branches. The Honor Guard may will have masks available and will wear them at the request of the family. Presentation of the flag is at the discretion of the family. If the flag is presented by the honor guard, it is strongly recommended that the person receiving the flag and anyone in the vicinity wear a face mask. The other option is to have the military fold the flag and return to the casket or urn table for the family to retrieve after the service. Some military branches are directed to place the flag on the casket or urn table to avoid direct contact. The Army is not able to provide firing details for those eligible. The Air Force may provide firing details for veterans who qualify. The Coast Guard, Navy and Marine Corps do not provide firing details. Families may arrange, at their own expense, for a firing detail provided by a Veteran Service Organization.

Please take all directions from the cemetery staff. Guests must leave the burial site immediately after the service is complete. Services are still limited to 20 total minutes. The chapel is available for services. Chairs will be six feet apart. Masks are required inside the chapel except when speaking from the podium. The maximum number of guests in the chapel is 20.

Funeral Directors and family members are encouraged to continue electronic exchange of paperwork. The administration building and Veterans Heritage Learning Center are open. Masks are required inside the administration building and strongly recommended inside the VHLC. The restrooms outside of admin remain available to the public.

Please contact the cemetery for any questions or clarifications. Thank you for your continued support.

## VFW RIDERS GROUP

Good Day Comrades I am working to organize and stand up the first VFW Riders Group here in NH at the Department level. I am looking to gauge interest among our state membership. I ask if you are interested please contact me along with any questions you may have. In addition, anyone who would be interested to volunteer in the process of standing this up please note that when you contact me. Ride Safe and God Bless!

Justin Morrison (Post 1617 Derry NH) – [Razor392@gmail.com](mailto:Razor392@gmail.com)



The following are the membership requirements:

- *Must be member in good standing of VFW or VFW Aux.*
- *Must Legally Operate Motorcycle 500cc or greater*
- *Must possess valid Motorcycle License in State of residence*
  - *Motorcycle Must be Insured*

**This is your opportunity to get in at the beginning and make a lasting impression.**

Note: Patch displayed is example only it is not approved by governing authorities at this time.

### Pentagon to Retirees: Plan Now for Tricare Select Enrollment Fees in 2021

24 Jun 2020, Military.com | By Patricia Kime, [Patricia.Kime@monster.com](mailto:Patricia.Kime@monster.com) .:

"Working age" military retirees -- those under age 65 -- who use Tricare Select for their health care will start paying enrollment fees beginning next year, Defense Department officials announced Tuesday.

For the first time since the creation of Tricare Standard, now known as Tricare Select, retired beneficiaries who joined the military before 2018 will pay a monthly fee for their health care: \$12.50 for an individual or \$25 for a family.

The enrollment fees do not apply to active-duty family members on Tricare Select or Medicare-eligible retirees on Tricare For Life.

Defense health officials said these retirees can expect to hear from their regional contractors -- either Health Net Federal Services for Tricare West or Humana Military for Tricare East -- in the coming months instructing them on how to set up payments, either by allotment from their retired pay, electronic funds transfer, debit or credit card.

Dr. Danita Hunter, director of Tricare at the Defense Health Agency, said the DHA decided to issue a news release now to give beneficiaries time to prepare and factor the fees into their decisions on health care.

"We're communicating this well before the change is implemented so beneficiaries can be informed about the change, as well as their Tricare plan and cost options," Hunter said in the release.

In the fiscal 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, Congress approved a request from the DoD to implement enrollment fees for what was then known as Tricare Standard.

At the time, the DoD argued that the change would entice more retirees to use Tricare Prime at military hospitals and clinics, where they would pay an annual enrollment fee but not make any copayments.

The switch would curb the government's cost of providing health care to these beneficiaries, since private care was determined to be more expensive to provide than military health care.

But in the past three years, the DoD has done an about-face on providing health services to the 3.2 million retirees and their family members under the age of 65 who are eligible for Tricare, forcing many from military hospitals as soon as they retire and embarking on a restructuring geared to reserving military treatment facilities to treat active-duty personnel only.

By law, the DoD was required to wait to implement the Tricare Select enrollment fees until at least 90 days after the Government Accountability Office provided a report to Congress reviewing Tricare patients' access to medical care, the percent of network providers that accept new patients, the satisfaction of beneficiaries in Tricare Select and any changes to the Tricare system since 2017.

In response, the GAO issued several reports this year indicating that, overall, patients saw very little change to their health care or access to care when Tricare Standard became Tricare Select.

Patient satisfaction also remained relatively unchanged during the first year of care, although some did report issues finding providers, according to the GAO.

In another report released in late May, GAO analysts warned that DoD's assessment of whether there are enough network providers to accept an influx of new patients once seen at military treatment facilities is built on "incomplete and inaccurate information."

Without a robust network able to accept patients from military facilities that are being realigned to serve active-duty troops, some may experience problems finding care, the GAO said.

With the announcement of the new enrollment fees, all military retirees under age 65 will be paying a baseline for participating in Tricare.

Retirees using Tricare Prime, a health-maintenance style program offered at military treatment facilities and through specialty programs and networks near military bases, pay \$300 a year for an individual and \$600 a year for a family. Copayments per visit to a network provider run from \$20 for primary care and \$31 for specialty care or urgent care. These retirees make no copays if they are seen at a military treatment facility.

Retirees using Tricare Select currently pay no enrollment fees. But with the new change, they will pay \$150 per year for an individual and \$300 per year for a family. They also are obligated to meet deductibles of \$150 for an individual and \$300 for a family. And they must pay a \$30 copay for a primary care visit or urgent care at a network physician, or 25% of the cost for non-network care, as well as \$45 or 25% at a network or non-network specialty care provider, respectively.

If retirees on Tricare Select do not pay the enrollment fees, they could lose their health care for nearly a year, since they would have to wait for Tricare open season to re-enroll.

That potential loss has some military advocacy organizations worried.

"The stakes are high," Karen Ruedisueli, director for Health Affairs at the Military Officers Association of America, said.

"We are very concerned about the new Tricare Select enrollment fee for Group A retirees [retirees who joined the military before Jan. 1, 2018]. For the past couple of years, the open enrollment message has been 'if you are happy with your plan, you don't have to take action.' I think that has created an uphill battle for effectively communicating about this enrollment fee," Ruedisueli said.

Eileen Huck, deputy director of health care at the National Military Family Association, called it "unfortunate" that the enrollment fee is being imposed on retirees.

However, she added, "We're glad the Defense Health Agency is being proactive and putting out the information. That will make it easier for families to plan and budget for this change."

Tricare Open Season, the period during which Tricare beneficiaries can switch health plans, is scheduled for Nov. 9 through Dec. 14 this year.

The DoD has established a Tricare Select Enrollment Fee information page, and beneficiaries can sign up for email alerts through the website.

### **Situation Update - VAMC Manchester, New Hampshire**

Veterans, our workforce has missed your presence at the medical center, and we remain committed to your safety. In order for you to have the best possible experience we are sharing what you should expect when visiting the medical center and what we need from you:

- Please call to confirm all appointments before coming to the medical center 800-892-8384 x 3199
- Virtual care continues to be prioritized over face to face health care delivery for the safety of our staff and Veterans we serve
- Face to Face appointments will take place as deemed appropriate by your provider
- When you have an appointment at the medical center, expect to be screened pre appointment by phone and day of in person.
- Screening – Veterans will be asked a series of questions to understand transmission risk and they will have a body temperature scan... something like this:
- They will be met by a gatekeeper or asked by an employee what brings them to the medical center to support their visit.
- Do you have any of the following:
  - Cough
  - Shortness of Breath
  - Difficulty Breathing
  - Fever
  - Chills
  - Repeated Shaking with Chills
  - Muscle Pain
  - Headache
  - Sore Throat
  - New Loss of Taste or Smell
  - Diarrhea Associated with an Acute Illness
- In the last 14 days:
  - Have you been in close contact with anyone suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 (without PPE)?
  - Have you been tested in the community or at the medical center for COVID-19?

All who enter the medical center are required to wear a mask. A mask will be provided to you at the screening point of entry if needed.

To reduce foot traffic, we are asking Veterans to report to the facility 15 minutes prior to their appointment. We want to reduce wandering to services where the Veteran does not have an appointment for your safety. Expect to come independently unless an escort is medically required. Individuals under the age of 18 years old will not have access to the Medical Center.

When you check out please ask your clerk if they can help you with other medical center business you need to conduct (again reduce foot traffic and keep you safe).

Expect things to change! We are working out every detail to ensure your safety, and with that comes continuous monitoring of emerging guidance from VA, local, State, and Federal agencies.

The Manchester VA Urgent Care is **not equipped to support medical emergencies**. If you have a **life-threatening emergency call 911** or go to the closest ER.

Operational information at Manchester VA: Please call 800-892-8384 x 3199 before arriving at any VA Manchester Healthcare System location including: Manchester Main Campus and all Community Based Outpatient Care locations. When you call, ask your provider if virtual care is right for you!

**Non-urgent elective surgeries/procedures are curtailed, and scheduled appointments are being rescheduled to keep our Veterans safe.** Dental procedures not urgent or emergent are also be rescheduled. Impacted Veterans are being contacted to reschedule. **Veterans should contact their clinical team with questions, 800-892-8384 x 3199.**

Access to New Hampshire VA facilities for visitors will be determined on a case-by-case decision **where the visitor is critical** to the care of the Veteran. Only visitors without symptoms will be permitted to enter the Medical Center as dictated by the current situation. **No visitors under the age of 18 are permitted, including infants. No Visitors will be allowed to wait in common areas** (canteen areas, waiting rooms, vending areas, etc.). These restrictions apply to all care locations, including health care facilities, ambulatory care centers, urgent care centers, and emergency rooms.

### **VA Manchester Pharmacy Official Guidance for Prescription Refill Requests in Response to COVID-19**

- Pharmacy is switching to an all mail-order system in order to limit exposure to COVID-19. Manchester VAMC Pharmacy Service medications and supplies will be mailed. Veterans may request refills and renewals as follows:
  - Contact the Refill Line: (603) 626-6543
  - Mailing in refill slips: complete and return by mail to the address on the slip
  - Pharmacy Call Center at 800-892-8384 x 3199
- My HealtheVet at [www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov); choose "Ask a Pharmacist" If you need assistance getting established on My HealtheVet contact the administrator at 800-892-8384 ext. 2291

**PLAN AHEAD: Please allow 10-14 days for prescription delivery. Veterans may request expedited shipments and as well as changes to routine medications from 30-day fills to 90-day fills by calling 800-892-8384 x 3199**

## **NOTE PRESCRIPTION LIMITATIONS:**

- VA Pharmacy cannot send patients greater than 30-day fills of controlled substances, supply items (wound care, urologic products, etc.) and certain high-risk medications.
- Manchester VA Pharmacy will not fill more than 90 days' supply of maintenance medications or honor early refills.

## **What to expect:**

- All who access the medical center, Community Based Outpatient Clinics or Brady Sullivan will be screened (Press Release) for symptoms of COVID-19
- Signage has been placed at all entrances instructing any individual with symptoms of COVID-19, flu, or cold (fever, cough, or shortness of breath) to immediately notify staff at the entrances, ask for a mask to cover nose and mouth, sanitize hands, and follow additional instructions provided by our clinical staff.
- Veterans will receive telephonic prescreening for scheduled appointments.
- In the short term, to reduce the spread of infection Manchester VA has suspended events and gatherings.

For information about your group call your provider 800-892-8384 x 3199.

For information on the COVID-19 virus go to: <https://www.va.gov/coronavirus/>

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## Points To Ponder

*The views expressed in the following article were 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*

### Good Old Man & A Bucket Of Shrimp

It happened every Friday evening, almost without fail, when the sun resembled a giant orange and was starting to dip into the blue ocean.

Old Ed came strolling along the beach to his favorite pier. Clutched in his bony hand was a bucket of shrimp. Ed walks out to the end of the pier, where it seems he almost has the world to himself. The glow of the sun is a golden bronze now.

Everybody's gone, except for a few joggers on the beach. Standing out on the end of the pier, Ed is alone with his thoughts...and his bucket of shrimp.

Before long, however, he is no longer alone. Up in the sky a thousand white dots come screeching and squawking, winging their way toward that lanky frame standing there on the end of the pier.

Before long, dozens of seagulls have enveloped him, their wings fluttering and flapping wildly. Ed stands there tossing shrimp to the hungry birds. As he does, if you listen closely, you can hear him say with a smile, 'Thank you. Thank you.'

In a few short minutes the bucket is empty. But Ed doesn't leave. He stands there lost in thought, as though transported to another time and place.

When he finally turns around and begins to walk back toward the beach, a few of the birds hop along the pier with him until he gets to the stairs, and then they, too, fly away. And old Ed quietly makes his way down to the end of the beach and on home.

If you were sitting there on the pier with your fishing line in the water, Ed might seem like 'a funny old duck,' as my dad used to say. Or, to onlookers, he's just another old codger, lost in his own weird world, feeding the seagulls with a bucket full of shrimp.

To the onlooker, rituals can look either very strange or very empty. They can seem altogether unimportant.... maybe even a lot of nonsense.

Old folks often do strange things, at least in the eyes of Boomers and Busters.

Most of them would probably write Old Ed off, down there in Florida. That's too bad. They'd do well to know him better.

His full name: Eddie Rickenbacker. He was a famous hero in World War I, and then he was in WWII. On one of his flying missions across the Pacific, he and his seven-member crew went down. Miraculously, all of the men survived, crawled out of their plane, and climbed into a life raft.

Captain Rickenbacker and his crew floated for days on the rough waters of the Pacific. They fought the sun. They fought sharks. Most of all, they fought hunger and thirst. By the eighth day their rations ran out. No food. No water. They were hundreds of miles from land and no one knew where they were or even if they were alive.

Every day across America millions wondered and prayed that Eddie Rickenbacker might somehow be found alive.

The men adrift needed a miracle. That afternoon they had a simple devotional service and prayed for a miracle.

They tried to nap. Eddie leaned back and pulled his military cap over his nose. Time dragged on. All he could hear was the slap of the waves against the raft...suddenly Eddie felt something land on the top of his cap. It was a seagull!

Old Ed would later describe how he sat perfectly still, planning his next move. With a flash of his hand and a squawk from the gull, he managed to grab it and wring its neck. He tore the feathers off, and he and his starving crew made a meal of it - a very slight meal for eight men. Then they used the intestines for bait. With it, they caught fish, which gave them food and more bait....and the cycle continued. With that simple survival technique, they were able to endure the rigors of the sea until they were found and rescued after 24 days at sea.

Eddie Rickenbacker lived many years beyond that ordeal, but he never forgot the sacrifice of that first life-saving seagull.. And he never stopped saying, 'Thank you.' That's why almost every Friday night he would walk to the end of the pier with a bucket full of shrimp and a heart full of gratitude.

Reference: (Max Lucado, "In The Eye of the Storm", Chapter 24, pp..221, 225-226)

PS: Eddie Rickenbacker was the founder of Eastern Airlines. Before WWI he was race car driver. In WWI he was a pilot and became America 's first ace. In WWII he was an instructor and military adviser, and he flew missions with the combat pilots. Eddie Rickenbacker is a true American hero. And now you know another story about the trials and sacrifices that brave men have endured for your freedom.

As you can see, I chose to pass it on. It is a great story that many don't know...You've got to be careful with old guys; you just never know what they have done during their lifetime.

### **Post Officers**

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

**Senior Vice Commander:** Paul Ricci  
(215) 534-0634; [Paul.Ricci@emc.com](mailto:Paul.Ricci@emc.com)

**Quartermaster:** Chris Lussier  
(603) 465-2676; [clussier@tds.net](mailto:clussier@tds.net)

**Service Officer:** Bruce Moran  
(H: 603-465-7611; C: 603-465-1040; [bruce.moran@hotmail.com](mailto:bruce.moran@hotmail.com))

**Junior Vice Commander:** Mike Bélanger  
(850) 207 8744; [Belangerphd@gmail.com](mailto:Belangerphd@gmail.com)

**Chaplain:** Bruce Moran  
H: 603-465-7611; C: 603-465-1040; [bruce.moran@hotmail.com](mailto:bruce.moran@hotmail.com)

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

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

**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.*