



Hollis VFW

June 2023 Newsletter

Vol. 33 Issue: 6

Serving Hollis and Brookline

June 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=blA2NlZlNmFo5cFhwVHlKUKVWtXMXZz09; 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: 25 June

Note, this is a change due to Father's Day being on the third Sunday of June.

May Meeting Minutes

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

Membership: Nothing to report.

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

Quartermaster's Report: The Quartermaster's Report was read. Chris Lussier stated we have changed our banking and accounts to the Millyard Bank in Hollis and \$50 was transferred from the old account to this new account to get it started. The Post also registered for the Department of NH Convention, a cost of \$9. There was one deposit of \$3.50 from National. Bruce Moran made a motion that the Quartermaster's report be accepted as read,

pending audit; seconded by George Robinson and unanimously approved. George Robinson showed the receipt for the Patriot Pen gift cards. Funds were allocated previously for these items.

Correspondence: Nothing received.

Comrade in Distress:

- Greg d'Arbonne stated his father is still recovering from his broken leg and is now in a rehab center.

Committee Reports: Nothing to report.

Old Business:

- Casino event for the Post: Chris Lussier reported what the Post is receiving on the event. The members discussed the need for increasing the bond on the Quartermaster. Chris stated he wrote a letter of thanks to the Casino POC thanking them for letting us participate. The members present tanked

Chris for the hard work he did to put this all together.

- Chris Lussier and Greg d'Arbonne will discuss the Post Bylaws and recommend any changes at the July meeting. It was stated that electronic voting via Zoom, e-mail, etc. should be covered in the new Bylaws.
- Forum on the US Constitution and Patriotism: Trevor Duval, the High School Civics teacher, is working on a date for this.
- Memorial Day Activities:
 - Chris Lussier stated the flags were received and we will bill the Town of Hollis for these. Bruce Moran made a motion that the Post pay the Brookline Legion \$325.98 for the purchase by them of our flags; seconded by Greg d'Arbonne and unanimously approved.
 - The members reviewed the various events at the schools.
 - Chris will provide a wireless microphone for the Memorial Park portion.
 - The event will start at 4:20 with an assembly of Veterans and Scouts at Memorial Park. The laying of wreaths will take place and then Veterans and Scouts will march to the Common. At 5 PM, the DAR will begin the ceremony with various readings. George Robinson made a motion that we ask the High School "Home Front Club" to do the reading of names of the Hollis citizens who died in various wars; seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved.
 - Poppy Distribution on Saturday, 27 May, at the Hollis Transfer Station:
 - 8 to 10 AM = Chris Lussier and Bruce Moran
 - 10 AM to 12 PM = Bruce Moran and Mark Tigert and George Robinson
 - 12 to 2 PM = Bruce Moran and Jim Bélanger
 - 2 to 4 PM = Bruce Moran and Bob Smith
 - The Brookline Ceremony is at 9:30 AM. All are asked to attend if they can.

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

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

New Business:

- George Robinson proposed that the Post establish a scholarship for a graduating High School Senior who is the child or grandchild of a Veteran. He recommended we have a committee to pick the awardee, using extracurricular activities, work outside school, and other such activities as important to selection. George suggested community service and leadership would be the most important qualities of the awardee. The awardee would come from the Hollis-Brookline community, allowing those who are home schooled in the two towns to also be eligible. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion that the Post establish a scholarship and create a committee to figure out the mechanics of selecting an awardee; seconded by Chris Lussier and unanimously approved.
- Chris Lussier stated that with the funds from the casino event, we will be over our limit as to the amount he is bonded for. Chris said if we disburse some of the funds ahead of the next statement, we do not have to increase the bond. George Robinson made a motion that the Post buy a brick for each member of the Post who has passed away since the founding of the Post; Greg d'Arbonne seconded the motion. After much discussion, Chris Lussier proposed a new motion that the Post donate \$30,000 to the Monument the Brookline American Legion is erecting in Brookline, and the Post also purchase bricks for deceased members of the Post; seconded by Mark Andrews and unanimously approved.
- George Robinson stated he has Scouts in Hollis Troop 12 who are receiving their Eagle rank. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion that the Post purchase certificates from the VFW for these Scouts; seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved.

For the Good of the Order:

- George Robinson stated the Middle School end of year award ceremony will be on 16 June. He will present the Patriots Pen awards at that event.
- Bruce Moran and Bob Smith attended a forum at the Hollis Lawrence Barn where a mix of ideas were presented to encourage positive dialogue among the citizens.
- Greg d'Arbonne stated the Legion will hold a Flag Retirement Ceremony on 10 June at 10 AM. All are invited.

- Greg d'Arbonne stated Brookline will hold its 4th of July Parade and VFW members are asked to be at the Legion building by 9:30 AM on the 4th of July.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM. The next meeting is 7 PM, Sunday, 25 June at the Brookline American Legion Hall, Brookline, NH and by Zoom. This is a change from the regular third Sunday of the month due to Father's Day being the third Sunday in June.

News For & From Members

Passing of Rita DeClemente

Rita DeClemente, widow of Post member John DeClemente, and an Air Force Veteran, passed away on her birthday, May 25th. The Post provided military honors at the gravesite in Hollis. Her obituary, as published by the Hollis-Brookline Rotary News Online, is as follows:

Rita Marie (Siciliano) DiClemente, a US Air Force Veteran of the Korean War, formerly of Hollis, Hudson and Goffstown, N.H. passed away on her 87th birthday, May 25, 2023, at Lahey Hospital & Medical Center in Burlington, Mass. following a brief illness. Until her death, she was a resident of Bedford, Mass.

Rita was the widow of John J. DiClemente with whom she shared 60 years of marriage prior to his passing on July 5, 2021.

She was born in Albany, N.Y. on May 25, 1936, daughter of the late Michael Siciliano and Florence (Bush) Conrad and stepdaughter of the late Joseph F. Conrad. Rita was a graduate of Woburn High School in Massachusetts and served in the US Air Force during the Korean Conflict as an Airman, 2nd Class. Prior to her retirement in 1986, she worked for many years at the Poliquin Insurance Agency in Nashua.

Rita was passionate about cross-stitching, and her completed pieces were enjoyed by many admirers. She also loved to cook for her family—her lasagna was legendary—and during baseball and football seasons, she could be heard cheering on the Boston Red Sox and New England Patriots. She was also active with the Hollis N.H. Seniors Organization.

Rita courageously coped with a neurological condition that confined her to a wheelchair. Despite her health challenge, she never let her illness prevent her from maintaining a positive attitude or caring about others. She relied on her deep faith in God to see her through each day and was fond of saying, "Every day may not be a good day, but there's some good in every day."

She is survived by three sons and daughters-in-law John "Jack" and Linda DiClemente of Abington, MA; Keith and Heidi DiClemente of Derry and Michael and Melissa DiClemente of Scarborough, ME. Also, a daughter and son-in-law Andrea and Richard Dellarciprete, of Billerica, MA. Rita was grandmother to 12 grandchildren: John, Allison, Matthew, Holly, Stephen, Michael Anthony, Alexis, Nicholas, Michael Jr., Colin, Dalana and Michael James. Also nine great-

grandchildren with a new great-granddaughter due in July; brother Joseph Conrad of Ormond Beach, Fla.; sister Cynthia Keyes and her husband Richard, of Wilton, N.H.; sister-in-law Sara Siciliano of Nashua and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. She was preceded in death by her late best friend Jean Jackson and granddaughter Marissa DiClemente. Rita was sister of the late Michael Siciliano and Betty Jo (Conrad) Strange.

The family would like to acknowledge the care and compassion Rita received from the staff at EN Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital in Bedford, Mass. and Billerica Crossings where she resided for several years.

Calendar of Events

Added/Changed events are highlighted in yellow.

June

- 10 June: Brookline American Legion Flag Retirement Ceremony, 10 AM, Legion Hall
- 22 June: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting
- 25 Jun: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline Legion Hall – change due to Father’s Day on the regular meeting day.

July

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

August

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

September

- 17 September: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 28 September: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting

Please Make Sure You Renew ASAP

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

News of Interest to Veterans

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

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

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

Phaneuf Funeral Homes & Crematorium Hosting a Free Veterans Benefits Event on June 15th

U.S. military Veterans are entitled to several death benefits from the Veterans Administration and other Veterans organizations, though some Veterans aren't aware of what they are exactly. That's why we're holding the free On Behalf of a Grateful Nation military veterans benefits event. I appreciate you sharing this news with your organization. It will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m., Thursday, June 15, Phaneuf Funeral Homes and Crematorium, 243 Hanover Street, Manchester, NH 03104.

I will discuss burial and cremation options for Veterans as well as include benefit information including:

- VA cash benefits for reimbursement of burial expenses
- Burial Plot Allowance
- Military Honors
- Headstone, Marker, and Medallions
- US Flag and Penitential Certificate
- Burial in a Veterans Cemetery (Federal and State)

While this event is free to veterans, their spouses, family members, and other interested parties, preregistration is required. Those interesting in attending can register at <https://phaneuf.net/veterans-benefits-event>.

Thank you for helping us get the word out so veterans can take advantage of all the benefits they are entitled to as they relate to final arrangement. Please feel free to reach out if you have questions or need more information.

Buddy Phaneuf CFSP, CPC, President, Phaneuf Funeral Homes & Crematorium

"Freedom Friday" Every Friday at Fisher Cats Games

Buy 1 ticket and get 1 FREE when you show your valid Military ID. Deal is only valid at the box office. Presented By Manchester Firing Line.

Liberty House Pantry Current Needs

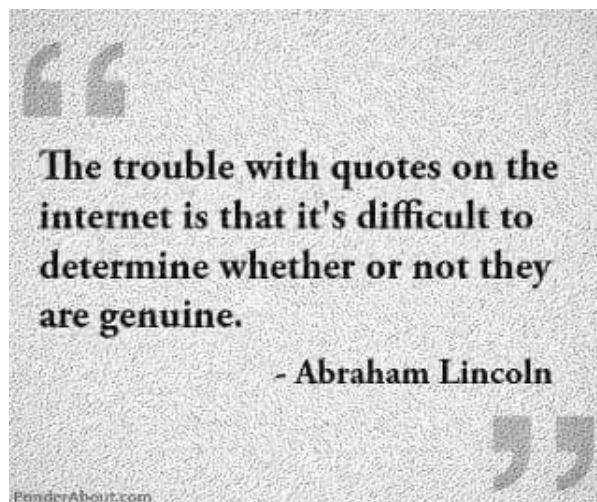
Unfortunately, due to the higher volume of veterans needs, we have gone through our stock very quickly. Below is a copy of our Liberty House pantry needs list. Any help is greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Stephanie Murphy, Office Administrative Assistant, Liberty House, 221 Orange Street, Manchester, NH 03104; 603-669-0761.



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



**A rare photograph of
my parents
on their
way to
school**



Hundred bucks says there's a coyote under there!



Post Officers

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

Senior Vice Commander: Mark Andrews
(603)732-6113; agav8r1997@gmail.com

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

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
603-465-1040; bruce.moran@hotmail.com

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

Post Mailing Address: VFW Post 11373, c/o Commander, 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.