



Hollis VFW

March 2026 Newsletter

Vol. 36 Issue: 3

Serving Hollis and Brookline

March 2026

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=blA2NlZNMFo5cFhwVHlKUKVWtXMXZz09>
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: 15 March 2026 at 7:00 pm

February 15th Meeting Minutes

Meeting Open Time: 7:00 PM at the Brookline American Legion Hall and via Zoom. 9 members and one guest, NH VFW Department Commander Darwin Beeman, were present.

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

Post Quartermaster's Report: The Quartermaster's Report was read. General Fund account deposits included: \$21.02 from Interest; and \$7.70 from NH Department for dues; Total deposits: \$28.72. Disbursements for the month were: \$320.00 to Patricia Dutra for cleaning services; \$78.00 for Stamp reimbursement to Kerry Spangler; \$1387.88 to the American Legion Post 74 for insurance; and \$5000.00 donation to Operation High Flight; Total expenses were \$6,785.88. No changes to the Relief Fund or the VENMO account. The quarterly report was completed, and submitted

24 January. 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:

- Request from a VFW member for rehearsal space and band equipment storage for the Hollis Town Band.
- Quarterly Report submitted to Paul Lloyd, confirmed receipt from Paul Lloyd.
- Emails from Paul Lloyd:
 - February Issues of Headquarters Bulletin, General Orders, and Planning Calendar.
 - Army static display program changes.
 - Scholarship application data and VOD/PP themes.
 - Free Skiing for Veterans.
 - 30 Guns/30 Days winners
 - Nominations are now being accepted for the 2025 Maurice McQuillen Service to New Hampshire Veterans Award by the Union Leader. Due 31 March 2026.
 - Day of Service reminder
 - District Meeting cancellation.
 - Liberty House Bourbon & Bites fundraiser on 7 March.

- Notification that our by-laws were not submitted until February.

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. (131 reports to date with 1131 hours of service).

- **Service Officer:** Nothing to report
- **Community Service:**
 - Nothing reported.
- **Americanism:**
 - Nothing reported.
- **Youth Activities:**
 - Nothing reported.
- **Legislative:**
 - Nothing reported.
- **Safety (Home/Fire):** Nothing reported.
- **Veterans and Military Support:**
 - Nothing reported.
- **Homeless Veterans:**
 - Nothing reported.
- **Hospital:** Nothing reported.
- **National Home:** Nothing reported.
- **Voice of Democracy programs:** Nothing reported.
- **Patriot's Pen Program:** Nothing reported.

Teach Scout:

- Nothing reported.

Military Descendant Scholarship: George Robinson finalized the application to be given to the Hollis-Brookline High School, which is essentially the same as last year's application with clarification on one question. The school had contacted George Robinson asking if we were doing the award this year and if they could get the application by the 30 January. It was agreed to provide the application to the school. The due date for submission is April 8th.

- **Membership:** Membership percentage stands at 93.18% with 41 current members compared to prior year of 44 members.

Comrade or Family of Comrade in distress:

- American Legion Member, Bobbie Canada, passed away on 10 February. Service is on 3

March and burial/celebration of life are scheduled for 3 May.

- Mark Tigert wrenched his knee skiing.
- Bruce Moran is wearing a heart monitor.

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:

- Chris Lussier reported that he was notified that there will be an opening ceremony on the 250th 4th of July beginning with a parade. Kick off ceremony at Monument Square. Chris Lussier will be the Master of Ceremony and Bruce Moran will be presenting his "Old Glory" recitation. We need to find out times to be able to deconflict with the Brookline parade. Hollis Town Band has a concert on 1 July. (OPEN)
- Kerry Spangler proposed changes to the By-Laws to indicate meetings being the 3rd Sunday each month except for 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 signed and Kerry Spangler submitted to Department Adjutant Paul Lloyd. Email from Paul Lloyd on 15 Feb indicated that the bylaws were just submitted to National. (OPEN)
- 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. A Scout has volunteered to take on the project. He has been asked to provide a list of materials and will work on the monument when the weather warms up. (OPEN)
- Citizen of the Year: Need to start submitting names of nominees to be ready to vote in February. Freddie Olson, who has opened the Gould Tavern to the public and preserved the

tavern's history and memories, was nominated for consideration. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion that Freddie Olson be our Citizen of the Year. Bruce Moran seconded a motion and it was unanimously approved. Greg d'Arbonne will print the certificates. Chris Lussier will reach out to DAR members to get additional input. Greg d'Arbonne will put the writeup together. Presentation needs to be given during the 14 March Hollis Town Meeting.(OPEN)

- District Meeting is 25 January at the Merrimack VFW Post. Kerry Spangler will assemble the district report for presentation at the meeting. (Editor's Note – Meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather)(CLOSED)
- 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. A process is in place to identify folks that can be supported by the organization. Many methods are being investigated to obtain nominations. A-10 simulator is being built to support the Aviation 101 course as well as those that cannot fly in the airplanes. OHF is looking for a \$15,000 donation to support flying missions. Any of our donations will only support NH veterans. Primary support is for mental health counselling to be mindful of the present and not reflect on the past or worry about the future. Flights will occur March through October each year. OHF is also applying for grants while also looking for funds as a kickstart to operations. Other organizations, such as Easter seals, can



nominates veterans to support. Funds are needed by end of March to begin flying operations in April and will be targeted towards veterans. Mark Tiggert made a motion to purchase 50 flights,

seconded by Chris Lussier, amended to donate in three payment increments (\$5000, \$5000 and \$5000) as funds are available seconded by Sean Brady, with first payment immediately, and the remaining to be voted on prior to each payment every other month which was unanimously approved. Check was presented to Mark Andrews. (OPEN)

New Business:

- Mike Reed who is also a member of the Hollis Town Band, stated that their rehearsal space at the Hollis Town Hall can no longer be used. The band is looking for any opportunity for about 1500 square feet space for rehearsal and a space for equipment storage. Anyone who knows of any space can reach out to Mike Reed to support the Hollis Town Band needs. Hollis is fortunate to have such a band and hopefully something can be done to help them get the space. Help get the word out. (CLOSED)
- Elections – Nominations need to be done in March.
- Patricia Dutra is moving out of Hollis but will continue providing the cleaning services.(CLOSED)
- Chris Lussier identified something about our Venmo account. It is currently set up as a business account and needs to be changed to a charitable account with a non-profit profile with PAYPAL. (OPEN)
- Chris Lussier requested authorization to spend up to \$400.00 for the accountant for tax form filing. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to authorize the funds, seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved.

Good of the Order:

- Stewart Jackson received recognition as the Purple Heart Association NH State representative. Full article begins on page 8.
- Jeff Smith Veterans History project. The Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress collects, preserves and makes accessible the firsthand recollections of U.S. military veterans who served from World War I through more recent conflicts and peacekeeping missions, so that future

generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand what they saw, did and felt during their service. It was founded through unanimous vote in both the House and Senate and became Public Law 106-380, October 27, 2000. Information can be found at the following link: <https://www.loc.gov/programs/veterans-history-project/about-this-program/>

- Our sponsored veteran and dog from Operation Delta Dog, Hershey and Avi who will graduate with the next class of ODD. Congratulations to Hershey and Avy and we look forward to attending the graduation ceremony on 13 May 2026.



- The Singing Vets have a function at a fund raiser for Homes for Heroes in Windham on 28 Mar 2026.
- Operation Care for our Troops is soliciting donations. We will make consideration at our next meeting.
- Nashua Center of the Arts is sponsoring an event on 18 March. Tickets are free and must be requested in advance online.

<https://nashuacenterforthearts.com/event/navy-band-northeast-pops-ensemble/nashua-center-for-the-arts/>

- Jim Bellanger has a contact who is collecting aluminum can tabs for donation to the Shriner's Hospital. Contact Jim for more information.
- 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.
- Commander Darwin Beeman. –
 - State membership is at 90.81% and is on track to meet goals for the year.
 - VOD/Patriot Pen awards – Last years NH winner went to compete at National and won there receiving a substantial scholarship of \$35,000.
 - State VFW entourage is going to DC to promote veterans care projects with our state politicians.
 - State testimonials from the Darwin Beeman, NH Department of NH Commander and Tracie Kelley from the NH Auxiliary will be held in Claremont, August 4th, at the Common Man restaurant and hotel. Fund raisers for the Testimonial are in the works, one being a gun raffle. Department is trying to get as much participation as possible.
 - State gaming – Department is encouraging VFW posts' participation in the NH Charitable Gaming program.

Closing: Chris Lussier made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM. The next meeting is at 7:00 PM, Sunday, 15 March 2026, 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.

Mar 2026

- 13 March – K-9 Veterans Day
- 15 March – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 26 March – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 29 March – National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

Apr 2026

- 9 April – Former POW Recognition Day
- 19 April – VFW District 6 Meeting 10:00 am at the Derry Post
- 19 April – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 23 April – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall

May 2026

- 16 May – US Armed Forces Day
- 17 May – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 25 May – Memorial Day
- 28 May – 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.

Just because there are no complaints, it doesn't mean all parachutes are perfect.

Kerry Spangler Adjutant

Post Officers

Commander: Mark Tigert – 603-219-9963 cdr11373@gmail.com

Senior Vice Commander: Mark Andrews

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Quartermaster: Chris Lussier

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Chaplain: Bruce Moran

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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.

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

NEW ALTERNATIVE CAPS!



FOR POST, DISTRICT AND DEPARTMENT

HOLLIS ARMY VETERAN CHOSEN AS NEW HAMPSHIRE'S REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE 2026 PURPLE HEART PATRIOT PROJECT



By HB News Team

Fri, Jan 30, 2026

Hollis Vietnam veteran Stewart Jackson has been selected as New Hampshire's representative for the 2026 Purple Heart Patriot Project, a national tribute honoring combat-wounded service members from across the country.

Stewart Jackson, a Hollis resident and Vietnam-era U.S. Army veteran, is New Hampshire's honoree for the 2026 Purple Heart Patriot Project. (Service photo)

Jackson, a U.S. Army sergeant and Purple

Heart recipient, is one of a select group of honorees chosen from hundreds of nominations nationwide. The Patriot Project is a program of the National Purple Heart Honor Mission and recognizes veterans not only for their actions in combat, but for their continued service to their communities after returning home.

The all-expense-paid, multi-day tribute will take place April 27 through May 1, 2026, and will bring together Purple Heart recipients from multiple generations and military conflicts.

Honoring Service and Sacrifice

The Patriot Project mission is structured similarly to an Honor Flight and includes visits to several historic and commemorative sites. Planned stops include the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, a private tour of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, and the 9/11 Memorial. Additional tribute events are also planned as part of the mission.

"Stew and his fellow Patriot Project honorees represent the best of the best our country has to offer," said Jeremy McVey, chairman of the National Purple Heart Honor Mission. "They answered the nation's call and then kept on serving. This is our opportunity to say 'thank you' on behalf of a grateful nation, especially for our Vietnam veterans. The Patriot Project provides the proper homecoming many never received."

Colonel Russell O. Vernon (Ret.), executive director of the National Purple Heart Honor Mission, said the program also offers important opportunities for connection and healing.

"These missions recognize the sacrifices made by our Purple Heart recipients and honor those who never made it home," Vernon said. "They provide an invaluable opportunity for these heroes to bond with other combat wounded and to know that this nation will never forget their sacrifice."

A Vietnam-era Army Veteran

Jackson was drafted into the U.S. Army in January 1968 and served for 20 months, including deployment to Vietnam with the 9th Infantry Division.

On Feb. 28, 1969, his platoon was conducting operations in a heavily wooded jungle area suspected of Viet Cong activity. After an overnight ambush yielded no contact, Jackson's section of the platoon was ordered to rejoin the rest of the unit by moving through dense vegetation along a narrow path partially blocked by a branch.

Based on prior experience, the platoon suspected the branch had been booby trapped. Jackson ordered the soldier carrying a grenade launcher to fire at the branch, but the round overshot its target. Several M16 rounds were then fired at the branch before Jackson instructed the point man to proceed with caution.

The booby trap detonated immediately. The point man was badly injured, Jackson was struck by two pieces of shrapnel in the abdomen, and several other soldiers suffered minor leg wounds. A medivac helicopter was called for the point man, and when the extent of Jackson's injuries became clear, he was evacuated as well. Both were flown to the base camp at Dong Tam.

For his service, Jackson was awarded the Purple Heart along with multiple medals and commendations, including the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Ribbon, Vietnam Service Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Army Commendation Medal with "V" device, among others.

Reflecting on his service, Jackson said it shaped him well beyond his time in uniform.

"Though I didn't volunteer to serve, I'm proud to have served my country in a time of war," he said. "I learned a great deal about leadership that served me well later in my civilian life. I also made friendships among my fellow platoon members which have lasted to this day."

Continuing Service at Home

Now a Hollis resident, Jackson remains active in veterans' organizations and community events. He is a life member of the Disabled American Veterans, Patriot Guard Riders, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart. He frequently serves as a bugler for local ceremonies, including holiday parades, civic events, and military funerals.

Jackson is married and is the father of one child and grandfather of two, as well as having two stepdaughters and two step-granddaughters. His interests include amateur radio, furniture making, carpentry, auto repair, and traveling to National Parks.

About the Purple Heart Patriot Project

The Purple Heart Patriot Project provides Purple Heart recipients with an opportunity to visit the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor and other sites connected to the medal's history. The museum, located just north of West Point in New York, stands near the location where General George Washington created the Badge of Military Merit in 1782, the precursor to today's Purple Heart.

The National Purple Heart Honor Mission was also instrumental in the creation of the Purple Heart Forever stamp and the U.S. Mint's Purple Heart Commemorative Coin issued in 2022. The organization is currently developing a National Purple Heart Traveling Tribute and Education Center, designed to bring veterans' stories to communities across the country.

Project missions are supported through individual, foundation, and corporate donations.

More information about the National Purple Heart Honor Mission and the Purple Heart Patriot Project is available at <https://www.purpleheartmission.org>. Information for this article was provided by the National Purple Heart Honor Mission.