



Hollis VFW

November 2025 Newsletter

Vol. 35 Issue: 11

Serving Hollis and Brookline

November 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: 16 November at 7:00 pm

October 19th Meeting **Minutes**

Meeting Open Time: 7:00 PM at the Brookline American Legion Hall and via Zoom. 9 members and 1 guest were present.

Reading of the Minutes: A motion was made by Bruce Moran to dispense with the reading of the August meeting minutes since they were published in the September 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 Report was read by Chris Lussier. General Fund account Deposits include: \$7.48 from Interest; Venmo Transfer at Old Home Days – \$19.58; Cash donations from Old Home Days – \$158.00; VFW electronic deposit – \$185.20; Transfer from VENMO account - \$575.56; total deposits \$945.82. Disbursements for the month were: \$429.50 for reimbursement for service day materials to Chris Lussier; \$400.00 to Michael

Papadopoulos for lift chair purchase for a veteran; \$320.00 to Patricia Dutra for cleaning services; and \$575.56 Transfer from VENMO to General Fund account - \$575.56. Total expenses \$1,725.06. Bruce Moran made a motion that the Quartermaster's report be accepted as read, pending audit; seconded by Greg d'Arbonne, and unanimously approved. The Quarterly Trustee report was reviewed and signed and submitted to Department.

Correspondence:

- District 6 Meeting Notes – National dues increase by \$5.00 for 2026 to 36.50. Membership items included converting continuous members to lifetime or other ways to pay dues for those over 65. Other ideas included paying continuous dues for those in officer positions. New Mandatory donation to VSO. Pictures should be sent to District and Department Adjutants for any community service reports to bolster our participation.
- Email from Paul Lloyd with October General Orders

- Email from Paul Lloyd:
 - You've probably seen the recent Stars and Stripes article making the rounds — claiming veterans organizations like ours are fading and "losing relevance."
 - This is the same tired story that's been written over and over again ... we know better because we are out in the trenches making a difference.
 - We know our VFW Posts around the world are in fact thriving — reimagining what service, camaraderie, and community look like today. From mental wellness efforts and e-sports leagues to Day of Service and other community service events, and local advocacy — our Posts are proving every day that the VFW is still leading, still advancing, still serving.
 - Thankfully, Stars & Stripes prides itself on accurate reporting and promptly responds to correcting errors.
 - Let's educate the newsroom on what's really happening within our organization.
 - I'm asking all Department leaders to send an email to letters@stripes.com informing it of your Posts relevance. Be sure to include your Department's/Posts':
 - New or creative membership initiatives.
 - Partnerships connecting with younger vets and the community.
 - Facility updates or modern events that bring people in.
 - Wellness programs, family activities, or advocacy wins.
 - Personal stories of how the VFW has given purpose and meaning to members.
 - Let's ensure Stars & Stripes corrects their error. VFW isn't stuck in the past or fading out — we're defining the future of what it means to serve.
 - The critics have their story. Now it's our turn to tell our truth.
- Email from District 6 — Ike Miller's resignation.
- Received a letter of thank you for the 4 Vets participation at the Franklin Military and Veterans Campus ribbon cutting ceremony.

Committee/Program Reports: Reporting is now accessed through the VFVNH.org website in the Login drop-down menu <Report Entry>.

- **Service Officer:** Several visits to visit a member in the hospital. Visits improved his demeanor from the first part of his stay to discharge.
- **Patriot's Pen Program:** We have about 130 entries narrowed down to 8 for final ranking in the post. We do not have online access to the contest application, so we need to find out how to register. Also, we are not clear as to how many essays we should submit (First Place, Top 3, top 8). Kerry Spangler will reach out to District to find the answer. (OPEN)
- **Voice of Democracy programs:** We have the same questions about the submission of the VOD competitors. (OPEN)
- **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.
- **Americanism:**
 - 27 September — VFW Member while performing with a band at a public brew-fest recognized all the Veterans in the audience and then led the entire audience in a singing of God Bless America.
 - 25 September - Four members met to rehearse music to be performed as an acapella quartet and a forthcoming Service Dog graduation ceremony.
- **Community Service:**
 - 8 September — 6 Veterans visited Freddie's wonderful Historic Tavern, 28 Main Street, for wine, cheese, sodas, snacks and fun socializing.
 - 20 September — Bruce Moran, Kerry Spangler, and Chris Lussier participated in the Hollis Old Home Days parade presenting Chris Lussier's WWII era Willys.
 - 3, 10, 17, and 24 September — Weekly Veteran's Breakfasts in Hollis with numerous veterans from the community.
 - 1, 8, and 15 October — Weekly Veteran's Breakfasts in Hollis with numerous veterans from the community.

- **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.

- **Youth Activities:**

- 20 September – Several members talked with numerous kids about various facets of military service and life. Several recognized members from seeing us at the many school activities and programs we support. One of these was recognizing Chris as the “Old Flag Presentation” he has done many times over the years. Many stated that our interactions with them gave them a new perspective on the military.

- **Legislative:**

- 18 September – Franklin Military and Veterans Campus Ribbon Cutting – Kelly Ayotte talked with 4 Vets on current happenings.
- 20 September – Discussions with Liz Barbour about local veteran's programs and events

- **Hospital:**

- 3 October – At three different times through the day three members (one each visit) visited a comrade at the rehab hospital (spread out through the day). One member assisted the physical therapist with the exercise routine: standing walking leg-lifts etc. The comrade showed significant improvement in both physical and emotional ways. The Post has spread the word to keep his spirits up through frequent visits by multiple members. The money spent was for a cranberry muffin which he shared with his wife.
- 5 October - Two members visited comrade in the rehab hospital. Like the day before the patient did PT exercises with the assistance of the two members. We spotted him as he practiced standing with the walker. His attitude and health appear to be improving enormously.

- **Teach Scout:**

- 20 September – Kerry Spangler and Chris Lussier instructed Scouts who participated in the Hollis Old Home Days Parade as the

honor guard carrying the Colors and VFW Post Flag. The Scouts did a wonderful job.

- **Homeless Veterans:**

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

- **National Home:**

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

- **Veterans and Military Support:**

- 25 September – Two members used Post wheelchair and walker to move Veteran from hospital to his home after his discharge. With help from a neighbor, we successfully moved him to his apartment and got him set up with his medication and instructions.
- 26 September – Two members researched and bought a power lift chair for elderly veteran. We transported it using member's truck and trailer and delivered it to the elder Veteran's home. We then took a recliner from his home and moved it to the Legion Post building for storage.
- 29 September – Member met with Dr. Landerman-Garber at her 'Card Central' location to discuss upcoming television appearance promoting her 'Holiday Cards 4 our Military Challenge. Member will offer insight to receiving cards while deployed (at the taping).
- 30 September – Member petitioned staff at rehab center to provide a reclining chair for their VFW-member patient who requested one. Their rules limited the chair to one that is pleather or leather for purposes of sanitizing. Member is in pain from his recent accident and sleeps best in a recliner. A borrowed chair was located and delivered to his room. He is now much happier.
- 1 October – Member attended a promotional TV-spot taping at WMUR TV Studios to inform and promote the local charity that collects and sends holiday cards to troops overseas.

- **Membership:**

- 20 Sep – Bruce Moran, Kerry Spangler, and Chris Lussier set up a membership table at

the Hollis Old Home Days 20 September. We received information from 3 potential members.

- 19 October – Sean Brady attended the meeting. (Editor's Note - A quorum was available on 5 November to vote on accepting Sean Brady as a member. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to accept, seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved.)

Comrade or Family of Comrade in distress:

- Bob Smith is out of the hospital.
- Bruce Moran is doing as well as can be expected.
- Jim Belanger's daughter, Julie, passed away from ALS. Bruce Moran will send our condolences to the family.
- Mark Andrews friend, USAF veteran Bob Byrd passes away. We are requested to attend and provide the rifle detail to support the service on 29 October at 1400. Location is Hangar 91 at Nashua Airport. USAF is providing Flag and Taps detail. Mark Andrews, Chris Lussier, Bruce Moran, Greg d'Arbonne will provide the detail.

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 authorized "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 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. (OPEN)
- 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 lecturn. There are several activities at the schools with dates and times published in the October Newsletter. (OPEN)

- Inspection document preparations – Our inspection will occur at the November 16th meeting at 6:00 PM. Chris Lussier and Kerry Spangler are assembling the binder for the inspection. (OPEN)
- Veterans Day School Ceremonies:
 - 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. A link for donations for wreaths is on our Post Facebook page.
- Wreaths across Hollis is tentatively scheduled for 7 December.
- Operation Delta Dog Graduation is 5 November at 5:00 pm at the Lawrence Barn. Singing Vets for National Anthem and Service songs.
- Poppy Drive 8 November
 - Hollis Transfer Station Schedule

- 0800-1000 – Chris Lussier will help set up. Bruce Moran
- 1000-1200 – Bruce Moran/Tony Fowler/Kerry Spangler
- 1200-1400 – Bruce Moran/Mark Tigert
- 1400-1500 – Bruce Moran/Sean Brady. Chris Lussier will help tear down.

- 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. (OPEN)
 - 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. (OPEN)

New Business:

- 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.(OPEN)
- Chris Lussier will make the required donation to the VSO. (OPEN)
- 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. (OPEN)
- Kerry Spangler made a motion for the Post to donate \$250.00 to the National Home, seconded by Greg d'Arbonne and unanimously approved. (OPEN)
- Mark Andrews presented information on Operation High Flight, 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. Mark Andrews made a motion to donate \$15,000 to help get the hangar space and store front set up for use, seconded by Greg d'Arbonne. After further discussion, Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to table the discussion until the next meeting to better understand the method and means for support,

seconded by Mark Andrews and unanimously approved. (TABLED)

Good of the Order:

- Mark Tigert has 30 guns for 30 days raffle tickets available.
- We still need to get project pictures to Jim Belanger to post on the website.

Closing: Chris Lussier made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Greg d'Arbonne and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:14 PM. The next meeting is at 7:00 PM, Sunday, 16 November 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

- 5 November – Operation Delta Dog Graduation at the Lawrence Barn, 5:00 pm.
- 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 your arrival around 9:30 a.m.
- 8 November – 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Poppy Sales at the Brookline and Hollis Transfer Stations.
- 10 November – Veterans Day Events at Hollis Primary School – 8:45 am, and Hollis Upper Elementary School - Pizza lunch at 1:00 pm, program at 1:45 pm.
- 11 November – Veterans Day Hollis Community Church at 11:00 am.
- 13 November – Holiday Card Challenge sorting event at Eversource
- 16 November – VFW Annual Inspection, 6:00 pm, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 16 November – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 pm, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 20 November – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 pm, Brookline Legion Hall.

Dec 2025

- 7 December – Wreaths Across Hollis Event.
- 13 December – Wreaths Across Brookline Event.
- 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

- 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.

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 for inclusion in the VFW website.

Please note the dates for all the Veterans Day activities.

What do soldiers do when they find a scorpion in their tent?

In the Marines, they kill the scorpion. In the Army, they call their CO and report the presence of the scorpion. In the Air Force, he calls the front desk and asks why there's a tent in his room. The Navy wonders what a tent and a scorpion are.

Kerry Spangler Adjutant

Post Officers

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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.

**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.wreathsaacrossamerica.org>

/NH0052



WREATHS
across
AMERICA

Cash Donations

accepted on Venmo:



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

Email:

wreathsaacrossbrookline@gmail.com