



Hollis VFW

October 2023 Newsletter

Vol. 33 Issue: 10

Serving Hollis and Brookline

October 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=blA2NlZNMFo5cFhwVHlKUKVWtXMXZzO9;MeetingID=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 October

We will start at 7:30 PM because we will be attending the “Grape Festival” prior to the meeting.

Veterans Day Activities

8 November: Veteran Day Assembly at the Hollis Lower Elementary School, 9 AM.

9 November: Veteran Day Assembly at the Middle School, 8 AM.

9 November: Veteran Day Assembly at the High School, 9:30 AM.

9 November: Veteran Day Assembly at the Hollis Upper Elementary School, 1:10 PM.

11 November: Hollis VFW Veterans Day Ceremony, 11 AM, Hollis Community Church.

September Meeting Minutes

Meeting Open Time: 7:00 PM at the Brookline American Legion Hall and via Zoom. 7 members present and two guests present, Isaac Miller, District 6 Vice Commander, and Richard Tripp, VFW State Inspector

Membership: Nothing to report.

The meeting was suspended to undrape the Charter. The meeting resumed after the undraping.

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

Quartermaster's Report: The Quartermaster's Report was read. The Post received additional funds from Boston Billiard from the additional gaming nights, and \$1.40 in bank interest. The Post also received \$92 in donations at Old Home Days. There were no disbursements. 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: Nothing received.

Comrade in Distress:

- Andy Seremeth reported that one of his daughters has been diagnosed with stage 4 uterus cancer. He asks that we keep her and the family in your prayers.
- Greg d'Arbonne stated his father will be moving to a New York State Veterans Home near their house, and his dementia is getting worse.

Committee Reports:

- The Post did a recruiting effort during the Hollis Old Home Days.
- During Old Home Days, we discovered three Purple Heart Recipients living in Hollis. The Post will initiate a request to become a Purple Heart Community.

- Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy (PP and VOD): George Robinson stated the schools have the requirements for each of these programs. HE also provided the information to the Principals.
- Troop 12 has another Eagle Scout.
- On 19 December starting at 7 PM, Troop 12 will conduct Caroling at the Hollis Senior Residence. The Post will participate with the Troop.
- The Post members discussed the idea of scholarships for children and grandchildren of Veterans as George Robinson presented at a previous meeting, and the members said we will participate in this program.
- Bruce Moran stated, as the Post Service Officer, he recently attended Service Officer training.

Old Business:

- Greg d'Arbonne made a motion that the Post donate up to \$11,000 to assist in the building of Dr. Laura Landerman-Garber Holiday Card shed; seconded by Bob Smith. Greg discussed how a local builder is willing to donate much of his time to making the building and how others have donated resources to do the project. Greg explained that while promises do not guarantee donations, if all come through, the project will be much less than \$11,000. It was suggested we request donations from District, State, and National, and the SVAC. If there are funds left over at the end of the project, they would be donated to the Holiday Card project. The High School Home Front Club will be asked to donate time to help build, as well as Post members. The motion passed.
- Veterans Day Activities:
 - Chris Lussier stated the Hollis Community Church said we can use their facility and Rev. Rasmussen will give a prayer.
 - Greg d'Arbonne stated he can no longer serve as the MC for the event. Is there

another Post member who can do this duty?

- We need a Guest Speaker for the event.
- Commander Tigert will invite the DAR.
- Bruce Moran will do an oratorical presentation.
- The "4 Vets" will sing the National Anthem and the Service Songs.
- The Middle School and High School will have ceremonies on the morning of 9 November.
- With Veterans Day on Saturday, 11 November, distribution of Poppies will be the Saturday prior.
- The Post still needs to do an After-Action Review with Al Fulchino about the Memorial Day ceremony.

Remember National Home: Prayer was said for the National Home and residents.

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

New Business:

- Greg d'Arbonne made a motion that the 15 October meeting start at 7:30 PM, rather than 7 PM, due to the Post having a booth at the Hollis Grape Festival and starting later gives everyone time to leave the Grape Festival and getting to the Post meeting on time; seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved.
- Chris Lussier stated the next time the Post files Federal taxes we will file a more complex return due to our recent donations. He said it is not an issue, but just be aware. Chris proposed that the Post keep about \$20,000 total in our accounts, and that we should donate to more charities. The members present all agreed. The members

spoke about Operation Delta Dog that is in Hollis and helps Veterans get an assistance dog. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion that the Post donates \$6,000 to Operation Delta Dog; seconded by Bob Smith and unanimously approved. The Post will make a formal presentation of the donation to Operation Delta Dog.

- Bruce Moran made a motion that the Post donate \$2,000 to Veterans Count to purchase a table at their "Support Our Soldiers" dinner on 4 November 2023 and invite supporters of the Post to attend; seconded by Bob Smith and unanimously approved.

For the Good of the Order:

- Chris Lussier was on WZID with Dr. Laura Landerman-Garber and spoke about the Holiday Card Challenge program.
- Members were reminded that there is a Veteran Breakfast every Wednesday starting at 8 AM at the Market Place Diner, 4 Market Pl, Hollis, NH.
- Members were reminded that the next Cigar Night at Fulchino Vineyard is Thursday, 28 September, from 6 to 8 PM.
- Isaac Miller, District 6 Vice Commander, stated he is also the Chairman for the Teacher of the Year, Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy, and Scout of the Year programs.
- Richard Tripp, VFW State Inspector, stated the Post passed the Annual Inspection. He also asked if the Hollis Post could host a future District Meeting. Commander Tigert said he would discuss it with the members.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM. The next meeting is 7:30 PM, Sunday, 15 October at the Brookline American Legion Hall, Brookline, NH and by Zoom.

News For & From Members

Veterans Day Activities

Next month we celebrate Veterans Day on 11 November, so we have several activities around the holiday. Some of the schools will have a Veterans Day program. We will hold our ceremony on the 11th of November at 11 AM.

- 4 November: we will distribute Poppies at the Hollis Transfer Station. Please consider volunteering an hour of your time to help.
- 8 November: Veterans Day Assembly at the Hollis Lower Elementary School, 9 AM. They would like each Veteran who is attending to call them at (603) 324-5995 and provide your name so they can have a name tag for you and know how many Veterans will be attending.
- 9 November:
 - Veterans Day Assembly at the Middle School, 8 AM.
 - Veterans Day Assembly at the High School, 9:30 AM.
 - Veterans Day Assembly at the Hollis Upper Elementary School. At 1:10 PM lunch will be served. The ceremony will start at 1:45 PM and go to 2:15 PM.
- 11 November at 11 AM at the Community Church in Hollis (next to the Common). The ceremony is planned for outside in the gathering place at the church but if the weather is “nasty,” we will hold it inside the Church. “Uniform” for all is our usual VFW hat, blue blazer, tie, white shirt, and gray slacks. Feel free to wear your military awards and decorations on your jacket. Please dress according to the weather to keep yourself warm.

Hollis Old Home Days Another Great Event for Our Post

September was a busy month for our Post, beginning with the Annual Hollis Old Home Days. With two Jeeps Post member Chris Lussier restored over the past few years, the Post rolled through the parade with the crowds cheering as we passed. Post member Bob Smith was highlighted in the lead Jeep with his service during WW II. After the parade, Post members greeted Old Home Days attendees and found some fellow Veterans. One had been in the Post and had moved but was not back in the area and is rejoining the Post. The other is a Vietnam Veteran who joined the Post that day. Welcome fellow Vets!!! Needless to say, a good time was had by all at Old Home Days!



Post member and WW2 Veteran Bob Smith and Chris Lussier leading the parade.

Post Donates \$6,000 to Operation Delta Dog

The Post recently presented a “surprise” check to Charlotte Troddyn of Operation Delta Dog to support the organization. "Thank you to these amazing veterans for pulling together and wanting to help other local veterans. This check for \$6,000 will be going directly to help a very local veteran," Troddyn wrote on a social media post.

The Mission of Operation Delta Dog, as stated on their website (<https://operationdeltadog.org/>), is “We rescue homeless dogs and train them to be service dogs for veterans living with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and/or Military Sexual Trauma (MST).” A great cause the Post is proud to be a part of.



Presentation after Wednesday Veteran Breakfast

(l to r) Mark Andrews, Chris Lussier, Greg d'Arbonne, Charlotte Troddyn, Bruce Moran, Alex Crowther, and Bob Smith

The “4 Vets” Perform at Groundbreaking for New Center in Franklin, NH

Post members Kerry Spangler, Bruce Moran, Chris Lussier and Greg d'Arbonne, in their “role” as the “4 Vets”, a singing group of four Veterans, were honored to sing at the Easterseals New Hampshire groundbreaking ceremony for the new campus to support members of the military and veterans in Franklin, NH. The facility will offer a variety of services, including affordable housing, a retreat center and other services specifically tailored to the military community in New Hampshire.

The “4 Vets” sang the military Service songs (although parodying the Space Force song because they do not know that one yet) and led the crowd of 300 in God Bless America. Post member Bob Smith was honored for his service in WW II and was thanked by several dignitaries in attendance to include Governor Chris Sununu. Also attending was Post member Ron Corsetti, the new Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) for New Hampshire. Dr. Laura Landerman-Garber also

attended, and as always, encouraged everyone to sign cards for the Troops (and we are all grateful for all her hard work in this mission). A great event and our Post was well represented.

Photos courtesy of Dr. Laura Landerman-Garber



(l to r) Bruce Moran, Dr. Laura Landerman-Garber, Bob Smith, Chris Lussier and Governor Sununu



(l to r) Greg d'Arbonne, Bruce Moran, Kerry Spangler, and Chris Lussier

Post Member Ron Corsetti Selected as the New Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army

Congratulations to Post Member Colonel (Retired) Ron Corsetti who was recently selected to be the new Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) for New Hampshire!

Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army (CASAs) are business and community leaders appointed by the Secretary of the Army to advise and support Army leaders across the country. CASAs come from many professions including business, education, finance, industry, law, the media, medicine, and public service. Each is proactively involved in the community and brings to the position an interest in the Army, a high degree of business and civic leadership and an ability to influence the public. CASAs are Special Government Employees who agree to serve as representatives of the Secretary of the Army without salary, wages, or related benefits, and are afforded a 3-star protocol status.

CASAs bridge the gap between the Army and civilian community by disseminating information about the Army's objectives and major programs to the public through speeches, personal contact and participation in Army and community events. CASAs assist with recruiting by increasing the positive image of the Army and connecting Army recruiters to key influencers in the community.

CASAs provide individual advice to the Secretary of the Army on public sentiments toward the Army. CASAs work closely with Army leaders and installation commanders and serve as the Secretary's liaison for Army National Guard and Army Reserve matters. They also engage with local, regional, and state officials, Federal Agencies, Members of Congress, and their staff.

Ron has several decades of military service and is the first Army Veteran to serve in this position in 20 years. He has two sons who are currently serving as Combat Engineer Officers in the Army. An excellent choice and we wish him the best in his new role!

Calendar of Events

Added/Changed events are highlighted in yellow.

October

- 15 October: Hollis "Grape Festival". The Hollis VFW will have a booth at the event, 12 to 7 PM, Hollis Town Common.
- 15 October: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:30 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 26 October: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting

November

- 8 November: Veteran Day Assembly at the Hollis Lower Elementary School, 9 AM.
- 9 November: Veteran Day Assembly at the Middle School, 8 AM.
- 9 November: Veteran Day Assembly at the High School, 9:30 AM.
- 9 November: Veteran Day Assembly at the Hollis Upper Elementary School, 1:10 PM.

- 11 November: Hollis VFW Veterans Day Ceremony, 11 AM, Hollis Community Church.
- 16 November: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting
- 19 November: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.

December

- 17 December: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 21 December: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting

January

- 21 January: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 25 January: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting.

February

- 18 February: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 22 February: 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

VA Flu Shots Schedule

The following is the schedule for veterans to receive Flu Shots, from the VA Medical Center Manchester, if desired:

- Drive-through clinics: Wednesdays from 0800-1200 – 10/4, 10/11, 10/18, 10/25
- Walk-in clinics: Fridays from 0800-1200 10/13 and 10/27
- Weekend clinic: Saturday 10/21 1000-1400.

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>.

Resilient Women Who Served: Our Stories!



Cathedral
of the Pines

Join Us!

Sunday Oct. 15th

9:30 am – 4:00 pm

\$25. includes lunch!

CLICK HERE to Register

Early Bird Deadline: Oct 10, 2023



Hot Topics
Panel Speakers
Like-Minded Stories
Peaceful Gardens & Museum
Honor Reflect Celebrate!



Thank You To Our Sponsor:



Cathedral of the Pines

10 Hale Hill Rd Rindge, NH 03461

(603) 899-3300 www.cathedralofthepines.org



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RINDGE, NH 03461
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Honor - Celebrate - Reflect

Resilient Women Who Served: Our Stories! Event October 15, 2023

Early Bird Registration (before Oct. 10, 2023)- \$25 includes lunch!

After October 10th- \$30 includes lunch!

Registration Fee Payment & Processing:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Checks made Payable To: **Cathedral of the Pines**

Or Credit Card Info

Name on CCard: _____

Credit Card #:

Exp. Date: _____ Billing Zip Code _____

All Registration Forms **MUST** be filled out completely and include either a check or credit card payment info

Mail To: **Cathedral of the Pines 10 Hale Hill Rd. Rindge, NH 03461**

ATTN: Resilient Women Event

We look forward to having a fantastic day!

COTP Internal Use Only

Deposit Received by COTP Rep. _____ Date: _____

10 HALE HILL ROAD RINDGE, NH 03461
www.cathedralofthepines.org

(603) 899-3300

A 501(c) 3 not-for-profit Tax ID #02-0338521



PACT ACT & GULF WAR, POST-9/11 ERA VETERANS



The **PACT Act**, signed into law August 10, 2022, **expands health care eligibility to several groups of Veterans** who may not have been eligible before.



Veterans who participated in a **toxic exposure risk activity** (as defined by law) while serving on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training.



Veterans assigned to a duty station in (including airspace above) certain locations during specific periods of time on or after:

August 2, 1990, in Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, or United Arab Emirates

September 11, 2001, in Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Uzbekistan, or Yemen, or any other country determined relevant by VA



Veterans who deployed in support of:

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Operation Enduring Freedom | Operation Iraqi Freedom |
| Operation Freedom's Sentinel | Operation New Dawn |
| Operation Inherent Resolve | Resolute Support Mission |



SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD:

Veterans who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War or in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after November 11, 1998, and who were discharged or released between September 11, 2001, and October 1, 2013, may enroll in VA health care **between October 1, 2022 and September 30, 2023.**



Toxic Exposure Screenings

As a general matter, there are several types of possible exposures or hazards Veterans may have experienced during their military service, including:

- Air Pollutants
- Radiation
- Occupational Hazards
- Chemicals
- Warfare Agents

ON NOVEMBER 8, 2022: VA will begin incorporating toxic exposure screenings. Every Veteran enrolled for VA health care will receive an initial toxic exposure screening and a follow-up screening at least every five years. Eligible Veterans who have not enrolled will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.



The PACT Act adds **20+ new presumptive conditions**. Learn more online at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT).

Participate in the **VA Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry** to help VA better understand potential health effects of exposures and proactively identify health concerns Veterans can discuss with their health care providers for follow-up care.

Family members or dependents of a deceased Veteran may qualify for various VA benefits due to the additional disabilities defined in the PACT Act if they meet eligibility requirements. More information for survivors is available online at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT).

4 EASY WAYS TO APPLY FOR VA HEALTH CARE



Apply online at
[VA.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction](https://va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction)



Call the toll-free hotline
at 877-222-8387 Mon – Fri,
8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. ET



Mail a completed, signed
Application for Health Benefits
[VA Form 10-10EZ](https://va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction)



Bring a completed, signed
[VA Form 10-10EZ](https://va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction) to the
nearest VA Medical Center
or clinic.

4 EASY WAYS TO GET STARTED WITH CLAIMS



Learn more at
[VA.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/](https://va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/)



Visit a VBA Regional Office
[VA.gov/benefits/offices.asp](https://va.gov/benefits/offices.asp)



Call the Benefits hotline
(for specific questions)
at 1-800-827-1000



Work with an accredited VSO
[VA.gov/oqc/apps/accreditation/index.asp](https://va.gov/oqc/apps/accreditation/index.asp)

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Learn more and sign up at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT)
Download the **VA Health and Benefits App**
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)
Find a VA at [VA.gov/find-locations/](https://va.gov/find-locations/)

Get Your Toxic Exposure Screening



WHO:

All Veterans
enrolled in VA
health care



WHAT:

A brief screening
averaging 5-10 minutes
to identify and document
any potential exposures
to toxins during
military service



WHEN:

At least once every 5 years



WHERE:

At VA medical
centers/clinics,
including virtual
encounters



WHY:

To provide exposure-
informed care, support
long-term health plans, and
connect with
follow-up resources,
as requested

HOW:

Ask about the toxic
exposure screening
at your next VA
appointment

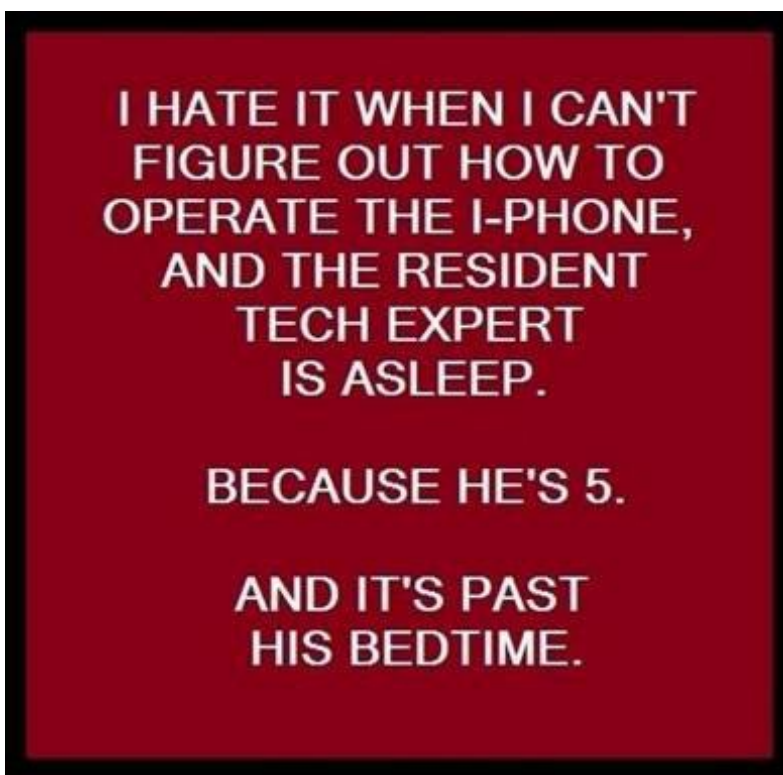


*If you do not have an upcoming
appointment or want to be
screened sooner, contact:*

*Michael M. Bichrest, MAT, CAGS, EdD
Outreach - VERA - MVP Coordinator
Manchester VA Medical Center
(603) 203-8391 or Michael.Bichrest@va.gov*

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



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

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