



# Hollis VFW

## September 2018 Newsletter

Vol. 28 Issue: 9

*Serving Hollis and Brookline*

September 2018

*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: 16 Sept, 7 pm, Brookline American Legion Hall***  
***Hollis Old Home Days, 15 September. The Post will have a booth there so stop by!***

### **August Meeting Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Commander Jonathan Matlock. 8 members and 2 guests present. The meeting was held at Chris Lussier's house in Hollis.

**Membership Applications:** The Post is still waiting for Doug Arseneau to send his DD 214 to the Post, so the members can vote on his membership. Chris Lussier reported Tony Garcia recently joined the Post. Greg d'Arbonne asked Chris to send Tony's e-mail address to Greg so he can receive the newsletter.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Chris Lussier to skip the verbal reading of the Minutes since they were published in the August newsletter and sent to all the members; seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved with no corrections made to the Minutes.

**Quartermasters Report:** The Quartermasters Report was read. Chris Lussier reported the Post received

\$7.16 from an EFT and \$38.50 from dues, for a total of \$45.66 that was deposited. He stated the Post disbursed \$500 for "Homes For Our Troops"; \$90 for Quartermaster Bonding; \$15 for Old Home Days; \$250 for the insurance for the Post; for a total of \$855. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion that the Quartermasters report be accepted as read, pending audit; seconded by Jim Bélanger and unanimously approved. Chris stated he used his personal credit card in the amount of \$31.50 so he could electronically submit Alli Carpenter's dues in the VFW system, so Greg d'Arbonne made a motion that the Post reimburse Chris in the amount of \$31.50; seconded by Bob Smith and unanimously approved.

#### **Correspondence:**

- Chris Lussier stated the Post received the bill for the insurance to cover the Post, so he paid it.
- The Post received a letter from the Old Home Days Committee addressing the event.

**Comrade in Distress:** Nothing to report.

**Committee reports:** Nothing to report.

**Old Business:**

- Hollis Old Home Days, 15 Sep: The Post will have a booth. Chris Lussier will bring a tent/awning, water, the dog bowls, the table and membership applications. The booth will be manned from 9 AM to 4 PM. Volunteers for the booth are:
  - 9 to 12 = Greg d'Arbonne and Chris Lussier
  - 12 to 4 = Jonathan Matlock and Mark Tigert
  - Don Hurt will be at the booth from 2 to 3 PM
- Commander Matlock announced our Scout of the Year, Cordelia Scales, who won the State VFW Scout of the Year, did not win the National Award. The members stated Cordelia was a great candidate and we are very proud of her accomplishments in Scouting and wish her the best for the future.

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

**The prayer was said for the National Home.**

**New Business:**

- Vahrij Manoukian Funeral, 22 August: The family of Vahrij Manoukian requested Veterans

to accompany his casket at his funeral on the 22nd of August. Greg d'Arbonne will e-mail the members of the Post to ask for volunteers

- Replacement flags for the Town of Hollis: The Hollis Fire Chief is requesting replacement flags for the Town. These are the flags placed on the telephone poles during the Memorial Day to 4th of July time period. Chris Lussier made a motion that the Post discuss this issue at the next meeting as there is time between now and Memorial Day and the meeting was going long enough; seconded by Greg d'Arbonne and unanimously approved.

**For the Good of the Order:**

- Commander Matlock encourages the members to join the Cooties. He said it is a very worthwhile organization. To join, you must have held or currently hold an elected officer position within the VFW.
- Members were reminded that the Post will have a booth at Old Home Days on 15 September and members are encouraged to stop by to at least say hello.

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM. The next meeting is Sunday, 16 September 2018 at 7PM at the Brookline American Legion Hall, 38 Main Street, Brookline, NH. The members then enjoyed an evening of great conversation and refreshments.



**Commander's Comments**

Comrades,

As summer slowly comes to a close, and I mean SLOWLY, things with the VFW start heating up. It is this time of the year I feel is extremely important to our little Post. There are many events in the fall to look forward to. For starters, we have Hollis Old Home Days this month. We will have a booth set up on Saturday and many of us will be there to man the booth and show our support for this lovely community we all live in. This is important to membership as well. We use this time to not only collect donations, but also as a

membership drive. If you are attending the events on Saturday, please feel free to stop by and chat for a while (and bring a friend). We also have Veterans Day coming up in just a few short months. We will speak more to those events in the coming months but start making plans to join us in the schools for the events and festivities surrounding that day created to celebrate us and what we have sacrificed to make this country possible. We will also be scheduling a "Day at the Dump" as I like to call it. That is when we set up a booth at the Hollis Transfer Station for our "Buddy" Poppy drive.

This month will be our last month meeting in Brookline at the American Legion Post. Starting in October we will be back to meeting at the Hollis Town Hall at 2PM on our meeting Sundays. We had a wonderful meeting this past month at our Quartermaster's house. It was much more about comradery than actual business. I feel like we will be scheduling more meetings like that in the future. We really got a good opportunity to sit around, swap stories, and really get to know each other on a more personal level.

Please join us for our next meeting on the 16th of this month at 7PM in Brookline at the American Legion Post. Bring a friend. Membership is the life's blood of our organization. The VFW has been struggling to recruit new blood. We are often competing with literally hundreds of other "veteran's service" organizations. We all have finite time and resources to get involved in veteran's organizations. Let's face it, Congressmen do not listen to dying organizations. We must grow to ensure our voices get the attention they deserve.

Make sure to check the General Orders for our Department Commander's comments. The Department's membership Task Force is in full swing addressing our Department membership woes. If you know of a qualified veteran, bring them to a meeting. We need to get out and recruit for our VFW.

One More Thing: Last week, the National Headquarters distributed a memorandum concerning changes to the subscription dues structure. Previously an Annual member's card would be valid for one year from their previous date of expiration or application. As of July 1, 2018, we have switched to a monthly-basis "DMV" model, similar to the way your car's registration is valid through the end of the month. Starting from July 1, 2018, any new, renewing, or reinstated Annual members will have their dues valid through the last day of their expiration month. Annual member cards will reflect the month and year they are valid through. Current members in good standing as of July 1, 2018 have had their expiration date extended through the end of their expiration month, even though this may not be reflected on the card they currently possess. Meaning, if your member card shows an expiration date of March 13th, 2019 - you are now in good standing through March 31, 2019.

Semper Fi - Jonathan

### **Passing of Vahrij Manoukian**

*Vahrij Manoukian, a friend to many of us and a big supporter of veterans in our community, passed away on August 16, 2018 after a courageous battle with cancer. His obituary in the Telegraph reads in part:*

Born in Beirut, Lebanon in 1952, Vahrij was one of four children of the late Nazareth and Anouch Manoukian. He immigrated to the United States in 1977 and resided in Boston before moving to New Hampshire in 1980. Vahrij was a graduate of Northeastern University and completed his residency at Massachusetts General Hospital and received his Doctorate from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy. Vahrij established the Hollis Pharmacy and General Store, that he owned and operated for the past 33 years. Vahrij was very active in his community. Members of his family include a daughter and son-in-law, Christine and Peter Olobri of California; his brother, Vatche N. Manoukian and Linda of Hollis; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Vani and Sako Azzo of Nashua and Vera Manoukian of New York; three nieces, Annie, Jessica and Bella; a nephew, L.V. and his wife Diane and their daughter, Sloane. In addition to his parents, Vahrij was predeceased by his son, Michael Manoukian.

For more than 15 years, Vahrij was a Senior Selectman for the Town of Hollis; a member of the Hollis Brookline Rotary Club; served as President of the Board of Pharmacy for the State of New Hampshire; played a major role in the Armenian Pharmacy Association of New England; and was a board member of the Child Advocacy Center. Additionally, Vahrij was the chairman of the Republican Party of Hillsborough County and member of the legal ethics committee of New Hampshire. He was the recipient of the Town of Hollis Citizen of the Year award in 2015. In addition, he received the award for Citizen of the Year for the State of New Hampshire by the VFW. He was a major advocate for the veterans of this Country.

Vahrij was very proud of his Armenian/Lebanese heritage who was fluent in five languages. He loved the USA; was a true patriot and loved the freedom, peace, and opportunity of this great country. His store became a mandatory stop and landmark for all Presidential Candidates. In his leisure time, he enjoyed spending time with family and friends and had a passion for cars, motorcycles and the New England Patriots. Additionally, he tirelessly fought to put an end to the opioid crisis and implement the New Hampshire Controlled Drug Prescription health and Safety Program.

*Vahrij will be missed by many and our Veteran community passes our condolences to his family and friends.*

### **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!

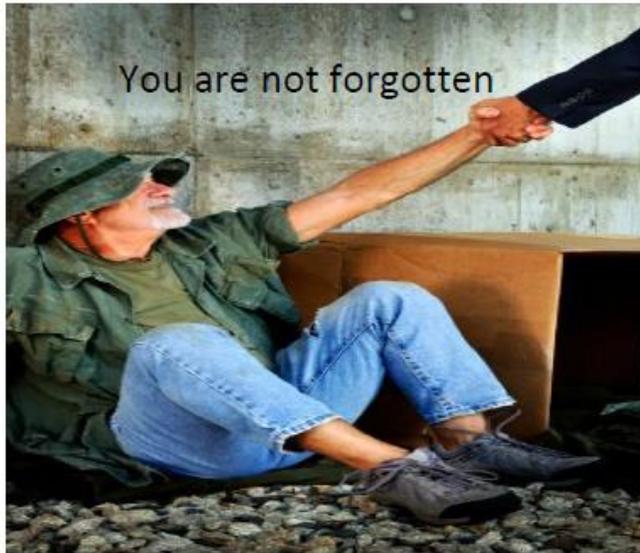
## **News of Interest to Veterans**

### **Volunteer Drivers for 2018 Stand Down Needed**

Comrades, volunteers are needed to drive Veterans to the Stand Down (flyer on the next page). If you can assist, please contact Beth Ann Grady, Homeless Outreach Social Worker with the VA, at: [BethAnn.Grady@va.gov](mailto:BethAnn.Grady@va.gov) or call her at Office: (603)-624-4366 ext 2701 or Cell: (603)-703-2948.

**12<sup>TH</sup> Annual Stand Down for Homeless Veterans**  
**co-hosted by**

**Harbor Homes and Manchester VA**



Location: Harbor Homes

77 Northeastern Boulevard, Nashua NH

September 20th, 2018

9am-2pm

Services Include: VA Representation, Food, Clothing, Community Resources, Employment Information and More. For a view of past events: Visit [Utube Harbor Homes Stand Down Andrea Reed 2012](#). Thank you.

For more information call (603)882-3616 and ask for Andrea Reed, by email: [a.reed@nhpartnership.org](mailto:a.reed@nhpartnership.org) or Emily Reisine, Homeless Coordinator Manchester VA at [Emily.Reisine@va.gov](mailto:Emily.Reisine@va.gov) or at 800-892-8384 x 3622



Showers available as well. Bring a towel if you can. We will do our best to have some available.

**The Annual Stand Down for Homeless Veterans is brought to you through the partnership of Harbor Homes, Inc. and Manchester VA along with the collaboration of our community partners.**



**Association of United States Army  
Colonel Edward Cross Chapter  
2018 Networking Golf Tournament**

**Friday, September 21st – Amherst Country Club**

*72 Ponemah Rd, Amherst, NH 03031 (603) 673-9908*

*Registration Table Open 12 pm*

*Shotgun Start – Scramble Format 1:30pm*

*BBQ Dinner Following 6:30 pm*

*Awards for Team Score, Closest to Pin, Long Drive, Putting Contest*



**Funds raised will support the New Hampshire Veterans Heritage Learning Center at the  
New Hampshire Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen, NH**

and

**The Colonel Cross Chapter “Adopt-a-Recruit” Program**

*For more information and sponsorship, call or e-mail:*

Dane Rota (603-878-0701) [dane.rota@verizon.net](mailto:dane.rota@verizon.net) or Greg d'Arbonne GDarbo6844@aol.com

**Registration Deadline is September 11<sup>th</sup>. Make checks payable to: COL Cross Chapter AUSA**

Mail to: AUSA, c/o Greg d'Arbonne, 65 Cleveland Hill Road, Brookline, NH 03033

- Single \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 per person (includes cart, range and BBQ dinner)
- Team \_\_\_\_\_ \$400 per foursome (includes cart, range and BBQ dinner)
- Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ \$1000 (includes foursome, tee box advertising, cart, range and BBQ dinner)
- BBQ Only (total number attending only for the BBQ) \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 per person
- Contribution to NH Veterans Cemetery with/without golf \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ *Total Amount Enclosed*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Affiliation (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Are you with a foursome? If so, who else will be in the foursome? \_\_\_\_\_

**No Tickets Will Be Required; Check-In at the Door**

The Association of the United States Army is a nonprofit educational and professional development association serving America's Total Army, our Soldiers, Army civilians, and their families; our industry partners, and supporters of a strong national defense. AUSA provides a voice for the Army, supports the Soldier, and honors those who have served in order to advance the security of the nation.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Merrimack Auxiliary Lasagna Dinner to benefit the Commander and President's special project



**When: Saturday September 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**5pm cocktail hour 6pm dinner**

**Where: Merrimack N.H VFW Post 8641 (upstairs)**

**Cost: \$15.00 per person**

**Join us for a yummy lasagna dinner to benefit MJ and Bill's special projects. The Heritage Learning Center and the Maintenance fund at the State Veterans Cemetery.**

**To purchase tickets contact Tracy Kelley at [tracyk372@yahoo.com](mailto:tracyk372@yahoo.com) or see any member of Merrimack Auxiliary 8641. Tickets can also be purchased at the Merrimack Post canteen**



## **Presentation of Honor and Remember Flag in Memory of LCDR Crosby, 20 Sept.**

*"As an American asked to serve, I was prepared to fight, to be wounded, to be captured and even prepared to die, but I was not prepared to be abandoned." - Former POW Eugene "Red" McDaniel - 1967-1973*

Please join the Northeast POW/MIA Network and New Hampshire Honor and Remember on Thursday, September 20, 2018 ~ @ 6:30pm PM. at Hesky Park, Meredith, New Hampshire for the presentation of the Honor and Remember Flag to Deborah Crosby whose father, LCDR Frederick P. Crosby, Navy pilot, was shot down in the Vietnam War in June 1965. The weekly vigil will follow the flag presentation at 7:00 pm. All are invited to join us.

## **Gold Star Family Memorial Monument Silent Auction and Raffle, 22 Sept**

The Gold Star Family Memorial Monument Project is having a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on Saturday, September 22 – 6 to 8 PM at St. Hedwig Church, 180 Orange Street, Manchester, NH. You can purchase tickets for the spaghetti dinner by contacting Angie at [adh0629@yahoo.com](mailto:adh0629@yahoo.com) or 603-491-5256. Tickets are \$15, and payment can be made with cash, check or PayPal Family/Friends only. Also, if you or someone you know would like to donate item(s) for the silent auction and raffle it would be greatly appreciated. They need the information on the items as soon as possible. You can contact Susan Peterson at: [phil413.susan@gmail.com](mailto:phil413.susan@gmail.com) or tel: (603) 548-8787



## **Dedication of the Gold Star Family Memorial Monument, 6 October**

The Gold Star Family Memorial Monument committee will dedicate the Gold Star Family Memorial monument at the New Hampshire Veterans Cemetery on Saturday, October 6 at 1:00 PM. For more details: <https://www.facebook.com/NH-Gold-Star-Families-Memorial-Project-1677717735791759/>

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## SALUTES

# NOV. 10 vs. | 1 PM

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OUR COUNTRY AND COMMUNITY!**

- SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES WILL BE RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR SACRIFICES
- APPEARANCE BY THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PATRIOT GUARD RIDERS
- DISCOUNTED TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR MILITARY AND VETERANS AT [UNHWILDCATS.COM/GROUPTICKETS](http://UNHWILDCATS.COM/GROUPTICKETS) PASSWORD: SALUTES18



**QUESTIONS: CALL (603) 862-4000**

# Operation Care for Troops

PO Box 1604 ... Nashua, NH 03061

Facebook @OCTNH

Next Packing – Holiday Stocking Packing Event

Dates are: November 14, 15, 16, and 17

If you or your organization wishes to help with the Holiday Stockings for the troops, there are several ways:

1. Fill one or more stockings with the items noted below.
2. Donate items used to fill the stockings and/or requested items below. Volunteers will be making stockings.
3. Write cards/letters to the troops. Drawings from younger family members are great too.
4. Knit scarves 4" by 36" for the troops. All colors are fine. However, lighter colors are not as easy to keep clean - navy, dark greens, browns, dark blues, etc. We need about 1200-1500 scarves!
5. Donations to help defray shipping costs. Each package cost \$13.95 to \$16.95 approximately (PayPal on website [www.octnh.org](http://www.octnh.org) or Facebook @OCTNH)

## Items for a stocking in order from toe to top:

Small can of baked beans OR Small flip top canned fruit  
Socks - 2 pair white  
Gum - 1 or 2 packs (placed in snack ziplock or rest of items will have a mint taste)  
Individual packs of tissues - 1  
Individual Drink mix - recommend remove from box & place in snack size ziplock  
Protein Bars/granola bars - 3 in a sandwich ziplock (requested are bars with high protein)  
Ramen Noodles - 1 package (cup will not fit)  
2 individual packages hot cocoa/ 2 individual packages oatmeal; all in a sandwich ziplock  
Dental kit - toothbrush, travel size paste, floss &/or lip balm; all in a quart-size ziplock  
Trail Mix OR Dried Cranberries .... Individual size - 1 to 2  
One of .... Card game; dice game; small notebook with pen; other game; nail clippers

We are planning to pack a homemade scarf with each stocking!

If you fill stockings, OCT needs to receive them by Nov 16th. Bring them to the Nashua Armory, 154 Daniel Webster Highway, Nashua, NH, anytime from 2:30 to 6:30 on Nov 14th thru Nov 16th.

## Other requested Items:

Lotion with Aloe Vera  
Medicated Body Powder (ie Gold Bond)  
Foot Powder (ie Gold Bond, Dr. Scholl's , Odor Eaters)  
Trail Mix/granola - small packages (no more than 5 to 6 oz)  
Sunflower seeds - small packages  
Neck Cooler - Instructions at <http://www.west-point.org/parent/wpp-grad/Coolers.html>

If you have any questions, email us at [deborah@octnh.org](mailto:deborah@octnh.org) or [ted@octnh.org](mailto:ted@octnh.org). To volunteer at our next packing (please wait until Oct 10), contact the volunteer coordinator at [volunteer@octnh.org](mailto:volunteer@octnh.org)

We cannot thank you enough for helping!!

*The Operation Care for Troops Team*

*(EIN: 27-3685964)*

Operation Care for Troops Inc. is a qualified 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization and donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. No goods or services were provided for this gift. Please consult your tax advisor regarding specific questions about your donation.

## **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*

### **Getting a Job After the Military**

Staff Sgt. (Ret.) Bobby Wilson went to see his old commander to ask for a letter of recommendation. His commander asked Wilson what type of jobs he had performed over the last two years since leaving active duty. Wilson replied, "Well, sir, I am not having much luck with jobs lately: I wasn't suited to be a tailor. The muffler factory was just exhausting. I couldn't cut it as a barber. I didn't have the patience to be a doctor. I wasn't a good fit in the shoe factory even though I put my soul into it. The paper shop folded. Pool maintenance was too draining. I got fired from the cannon factory. And I just couldn't see any future as a historian." The former commander sat in thought for a minute and said, "Did you try getting a job at the M&M's factory?" Wilson replied, "Yes sir, but they fired me for throwing away all the candies that had W's on them."

### **Why Women Rule**

**Women's Revenge:** 'Cash, check or charge?' I asked, after folding items the woman wished to purchase.

As she fumbled for her wallet, I noticed a remote control for a television set in her purse.

'So, do you always carry your TV remote?' I asked.

'No,' she replied, 'but my husband refused to come shopping with me, and I figured this was the most evil thing I could do to him legally.'

**Wife Vs. Husband:** A couple drove down a country road for several miles, not saying a word.

An earlier discussion had led to an argument and neither of them wanted to concede their position.

As they passed a barnyard of mules, goats, and pigs, the husband asked sarcastically, 'Relatives of yours?'

'Yep,' the wife replied, 'in-laws'

**Words:** A husband read an article to his wife about how many words women use a day. 30,000 to a man's 15,000.

The wife replied, 'The reason has to be because we have to repeat everything to men...'

The husband then turned to his wife and asked, 'What?'

**Creation:** A man said to his wife one day, 'I don't know how you can be so stupid and so beautiful all at the same time.'

'The wife responded, 'Allow me to explain. God made me beautiful, so you would be attracted to me; God made me stupid, so I would be attracted to you!'

**Who Does What:** A man and his wife were having an argument about who should brew the coffee each morning.

The wife said, 'You should do it because you get up first, and then we don't have to wait as long to get our coffee.'

The husband said, 'You are in charge of cooking around here and you should do it, because that is your job, and I can just wait for my coffee.'

Wife replies, 'No, you should do it, and besides, it is in the Bible that the man should do the coffee.'

Husband replies, 'I can't believe that, show me'

So she fetched the Bible, and opened the New Testament and showed him at the top of several pages, that it indeed says... 'HEBREWS'

**The Silent Treatment:** A man and his wife were having some problems at home and were giving each other the silent treatment.

Suddenly, the man realized that the next day, he would need his wife to wake him at 5:00 AM for an early morning business flight.

Not wanting to be the first to break the silence (and LOSE), he wrote on a piece of paper, 'Please wake me at 5:00 AM. He left it where he knew she would find it.

The next morning, the man woke up, only to discover it was 9:00 AM and he had missed his flight.

Furious, he was about to go and see why his wife hadn't wakened him, when he noticed a piece of paper by the bed.

The paper said, 'It is 5:00 AM. Wake up.'

Men are not equipped for these kinds of contests.

*God may have created man before woman, but there is always a rough draft before the masterpiece.*

## **Post Officers**

**Commander:** Jonathan Matlock - (706) 887-9445, jonmatlock@yahoo.com

**Senior Vice Commander:** Andy Seremeth

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**Service Officer:** Bruce Moran

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**Junior Vice Commander:** Jim Bélanger

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**Chaplain:** Bruce Moran

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**Adjutant:** Greg d'Arbonne

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

**Post Website:** <http://www.hollisvfw.org/>

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