



Hollis VFW

September 2026 Newsletter

Vol. 36 Issue: 9

Serving Hollis and Brookline

Sep 2026

The Hollis VFW meets the third Sunday of each month at 7 PM (except for June on the fourth Sunday). 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: 20 September 2026 at 7:00 pm

August 16th Meeting Minutes

Meeting Open Time: 7:00 PM at the Brookline American Legion Hall and via Zoom. 7 members and no guests were present.

A motion was made to suspend the business meeting to undrape the charter from the loss of our Comrade, General Tom Needam, who passed away, by Chris Lussier, seconded by Greg d'Arbonne and unanimously approved. The charter was undraped. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to resume business, seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. Business resumed.

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

Post Quartermaster's Report: The Quartermaster's Report was read. General Fund Deposits included: \$9.25 for Interest; Electronic deposit from National: \$23.10; Donation \$240.00; Donation \$200.00; Total deposits: \$472.35.

Disbursements for the month were: \$86.00 for District 6 dues; \$525.00 to Department for QM Bond; \$1000.00 for Genevieve Scales for scholarship award; an online store purchase for \$35.00; and \$320.00 to Patricia Dutra for cleaning services; Total disbursements were \$1966.00. The Relief Fund Deposits included: none; Total Deposits: None. Disbursements: None; Total Relief Fund expenses: \$0.00. VENMO Deposits: None. Deductions: None. Bruce Moran made a motion that the Quartermaster's report be accepted as read, pending audit; seconded by Greg d'Arbonne, and unanimously approved.

Committee/Program Reports: : Reporting is now accessed **through** the VFWNH.org website in the Login drop-down menu <Report Entry>. These reports include any submitted since last meeting. **(69 reports with 399 hours since 1 July).**

• **Benefits Advisor:** Nothing Reported.

• **Community Service:**

- 13 August - Members attended a special meeting with the members of the Jewish community at the Temple Beth Abraham in a discussion about common values and how

they relate to our nation's 250th birthday. We all read the Declaration of Independence and then had a fruitful conversation about it. Americanism and community service. The Jewish community was moved by our solidarity and outreach.

- 15 August – The Posts Singing Vets sang the National Anthem, USAF hymn, America the Beautiful, and Country Road to honor a deceased American Legion Veteran who was being honored by the Brookline Ambulance Service naming their training room after him.
- **Americanism:**
 - 2 July - The Singing Vets attended a Miss New Hampshire event in Pelham (joining members of the Pelham Post) to conduct opening ceremony for the teen event. We sang the National anthem while Pelham VFW did honor guard. We then sang the 6 service songs in a medley. Audience was adults and youths alike.
 - 28 July - Quartermaster participated in a public concert performance at MacGregor Park where he led the audience in singing a rock and roll finale of God Bless America.
 - 29 July - Quartermaster met with daughter of WW2 Veteran to identify and collect photographs of WW2 Veteran's service for upcoming television spot on WMUR about him.
 - 4 August - Post Quartermaster attended the National Night Out and displayed his 1942 Willys WW2 Jeep. While there he told the history of the Jeep's development and vital purpose in military history. He engaged with adults, youths, and numerous boy scouts who were in attendance.
 - 11 August - Members attended a special meeting with the members of the Jewish community at the Temple Beth Abraham in a discussion about common values and how they relate to our Nations 250th birthday. We all read the declaration of Independence and then had a fruitful conversation about it. Americanism and community service. The Jewish community was moved by our solidarity and outreach.
 - 12 August - Quartermaster and Chaplain met with the organizers of the Hollis 250th

Celebration and were each recognized with small badges of thanks for their contributions to the various events.

- 15 August – Members supported the town 250th America's Birthday Celebration with a membership drive table.

- **Youth Activities:**

- 26 July - The Singing Vets attended a Miss New Hampshire event in Pelham (joining members of the Pelham Post) to conduct opening ceremony for the teen event. We sang the National anthem while Pelham VFW did honor guard. We then sang the 6 service songs in a medley. Audience was adults and youths alike.
- 3 August - Post sent a check for \$1000.00 to a graduating senior who earned our annual Military Descendants scholarship.
- 4 August - Post Quartermaster attended the National Night Out and displayed his 1942 Willys WW2 Jeep. While there he told the history of the Jeep's development and vital purpose in military history. He engaged with adults, youths, and numerous boy scouts who were in attendance.

- **Legislative:**

- 4 August - Post Commander Quartermaster and member attended the National Night Out. While there we had the occasion to speak with two local State Representatives and cover a number of topics relevant to Veterans.
 - 6 August - Quartermaster and Adjutant attended a Nashua Planning Board meeting and spoke up in support of the Gate City Casino expansion. The Casino has been a generous supporter of our post contributing many thousands of dollars to Hollis VFW
- Safety (Home/Fire):** Nothing reported.

- **Safety:** Commander safety briefing about washing vegetables and looking for ticks

- **Veterans and Military Support:**

- 20 July - Quartermaster and Chaplain attended a social and promotional event at Operation Delta Dog representing the Post.
- 20 July - Quartermaster visited single-mother Veteran whose lawnmower died. He disassembled the machine assessed the problem and ordered parts. Expect to finish

the job in a week or so with another Veteran helping.

- 22 July, 29 July, 5 August, 12 August, Members picked up WWII Veteran for Weekly Breakfast in Hollis.
- 22 July - Quartermaster did some shopping for WW2 Veteran who can no longer drive.
- 27 July - Quartermaster visited single-mother Veteran in Brookline and completed repairs to her broken lawnmower.
- 28 July - Post Chaplain attended a meeting and seminar at Hospice headquarters in Merrimack to discuss advocacy for Veterans in the VA system.
- 28 July - Member coordinated conducted and attended funeral services along with MA National Guard for Maj General (retired) Thomas H Needham Jr. Approximately 150 people attended. Full military honors were performed.
- 29 July - Quartermaster met with the director of Holiday Cards for the Military to coordinate and discuss plans for upcoming collaborative events.
- 31 July - Post paid for a month's worth of cleaning services for 2 Vets/members who are elderly and need help.
- 4 August - Post commander Quartermaster and member attended the National Night Out in support of the Holiday Cards for the Military. We engaged with people and encouraged card creation. We told stories of deployment experiences and the importance of that kind of communication from home.
- 4 August - Post Commander Quartermaster and member attended the National Night Out in support of the Holiday Cards for the Military. This effort combined with our display of a 1942 Willys WW2 Jeep attracted numerous Veterans and provided a rare opportunity to engage with them and encourage membership and likewise invite them to our weekly breakfast to meet other Veterans and be a part of our welcoming community.
- 6 August - Quartermaster did a bit of shopping for our WW2 Veteran who can no longer drive.
- 11 August - Quartermaster went to member's house to evaluate a faulty garage door. He took him out to breakfast, and they discussed

the plan of action. Decision was made to return in the afternoon and bring tools materials and do repairs.

- 11 August - Quartermaster went to member's house and repaired broken garage door. He used materials he already had available so there was no cost incurred. Door was fixed and Veteran was left happy.
- 11 August - Member picked up our WW2 Veteran and drove him to/from our special meeting with the Jewish Community at the Temple Beth Abraham. He no longer drives he's 97 years old.
- 12 August - Post Adjutant performed a "We Honor Veterans" pinning ceremony for a 90-year-old USAF Veteran. The member and family were very appreciative of the honor ceremony.
- 14 August - Members attended an award ceremony for a VFW member from the Bedford Post due to the tremendous support he provides for Veterans in the Hospice program.
- **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:**
 - 4 August - Post Quartermaster attended the National Night Out and displayed his 1942 Willys WW2 Jeep. While there he told the history of the Jeep's development and vital purpose in military history. He engaged with adults, youths, and numerous boy scouts who were in attendance.
- **Military Descendant Scholarship:** The \$1000.00 check was presented to Genevieve Scales.
- **Membership:** Membership percentage stands at 95.45% with 42 current members compared to prior year of 44 members. System shows 100% with no data included.
- **Comrade or Family of Comrade in distress:**
 - George Robinson's nephew's, HM2 Nicholas Daly, deployment has been extended and is

still currently deployed at sea. Let's keep him in our prayers.

- Andy Seremeht has a cousin deployed in the Middle East. Keep him in our prayers.
- Jeff Smith's completed radiation treatment and is waiting until November for final results. Keep Jeff in our prayers.

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:

- 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. Upon inspection, we are not sure if it really needs to be done. May want to consider doing the landscaping around the monument for the Scout project. (OPEN)
- 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. Mark Andrews thanked the Post for the previous donation and identified the use of the money donated and the objectives met. Chris Lussier provided the second payment of \$5000.00. We need details on how the money is being utilized for our records. (OPEN)
- 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. The change will be made after the tax forms are filed. (OPEN)
- Operation Delta Dog thanked the Post by letter for being a 4-Star sponsor in 2025 and requested support in 2026 with their expansion of services. George Robinson suggested that we challenge other posts to donate and then

match up to \$25,000 to potentially get more veterans served. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion for the adjutant to send the challenge to District 6 to donate with up to a \$25,000 match from Post 11373, seconded by George Robinson and unanimously approved. Kerry Spangler will send an email to the NH VFW District 6 Commander to issue the challenge to local posts. He also presented the challenge at the NH VFW District 6 meeting. Waiting for response from ODD for who has donated. Only one post has donated (\$1000) so far. (OPEN)

- Greg d'Arbonne fixed the door to the basement that was damaged during a break-in. Thanks to Arlene d'Arbonne for cleaning up the mess. Greg d'Arbonne will gather a list of costs for the repairs. Pat Moquin is working on the small claim's paperwork. (OPEN)
- Need to start planning for the Veterans Day Ceremonies. Need to identify a guest speaker. (OPEN)
- VFW needs to put a sign out front of the Legion Hall to identify our meeting place. Greg d'Arbonne will investigate the costs and design. (OPEN)
- District Dues are \$86.00 and are due by Oct District meeting. Paid. (CLOSED)
- Our dates for Gate City occur the week of Veterans Day in 8-16 November. We are considered a partner organization for their charitable gaming. They would like us to promote the event as much as possible. (OPEN)
- The interfaith event with the Jewish community discussing the Declaration of Independence and its value to everyone. (CLOSED)
- Chris Lussier made a motion to formalize the special meeting request to spend the \$50.00 on the Charitable Gaming application, seconded by Greg d'Arbonne and unanimously approved. (CLOSED)

Correspondence:

- Letter from Gate City Casino General Manager thanking us for supporting their planning board meeting for their new casino location. Gate City renewed our partnership for 5 years with extended number of days to ten.

- Draft letter to the Gate City Casino thanking them for their support and partnership.
 - Draft Letter to the synagogue thanking them for hosting the event.
 - Letter from Operation Care for Troops thanking us for supporting their efforts as well as letters from recipients of OCT packages.
 - Email from Paul Lloyd:
 - August Issues of Headquarters Bulletin, General Orders, and Planning Calendar.
 - COA Minutes
 - National Community Post Awards.
- New Business:**
- Donations to Department's 17 charities listed in the General Orders. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to donate up to \$650.00 divided among the required organizations, seconded by Bruce Moran, and unanimously approved. (OPEN)
 - Greg d'Arbonne made a motion that the WIFI costs for Post will be split between the American Legion and the VFW to support both organizations meetings as well as the security system up to \$500 annually, seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. (OPEN)
- Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to authorize formally \$525.00 for Quartermaster Bonding, seconded by Bruce Moran, and unanimously approved. (CLOSED)
 - Kerry Spangler suggested we obtain wood Service plaques for the Post. (OPEN)
 - Our annual District inspection is 20 Sep 2026 at 6:00 pm. (OPEN)
- Good of the Order:**
- Chris Lussier and Kerry Spangler attended a ceremony for the Community Hospice House award ceremony for Gary Backus, Bedford Post for his outstanding support for Veterans.
 - Consider a donation for Tommy Trot whose father helped us on the building of the Holiday Card Challenge headquarters for their fundraiser October 24th. Address at the next meeting.
- Closing:** Chris Lussier made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Greg d'Arbonne and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM. The next meeting is at 7:00 PM, Sunday, 20 September 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.

Sep 2026

- 20 September – Hollis VFW annual Inspection 6:00 pm, Brookline Legion Hall
- 20 September – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 24 September – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall

Oct 2026

- 18 October – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 22 October – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall

Nov 2026

- 11 November – Veterans Day Ceremonies.
- 15 November – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 19 November – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall

Dec 2026

- 17 December – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 20 December – Hollis VFW 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.

If you know anyone who is eligible to become a member, encourage them to join and get involved. Our membership is aging and we need younger members to get involved to ensure we have a collective voice in government decisions about veterans.

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.

Being a member of the VFW is not just about paying your dues. Get involved, attend meetings. We have ZOOM so you can attend from anywhere to find out what we are planning and doing!

If you have email addresses for Hollis Town personnel, the @hollisnh.org are now all changed to @hollisnh.gov.

Get VFW project pictures and articles to Jim Belanger and/or to Kerry Spangler for inclusion in the VFW website and newsletter.

Kerry Spangler Adjutant

Post Officers

Commander: Mark Tigert – 603-219-9963 cdrl1373@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

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: Kerry Spangler

603-233-0266; KSpang8393@aol.com

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

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

E-mail addresses are for the use of the members to pass information and not to be sold or freely passed to others without formal consent of the member. No funds solicitation is authorized via e-mail.

Venue Change: 35 Corporate Drive, Portsmouth, NH



**GARY SINISE & THE
LI'DAN BAND**

MILITARY SUPPORT CONCERT | FREE SHOW

Veterans Count Salute our Heroes Presented by Service Credit Union

September 24, 2026 | 5pm | 35 Corporate Drive, Portsmouth, NH

Important Venue Update

VENUE CHANGE: Salute Our Heroes will now be held at [35 Corporate Drive, Portsmouth, NH](#), formerly Redhook/Cisco Brewery. The date and event schedule remain the same, and **no registration is required.**



You Are Cordially Invited to Attend

An evening to benefit **Heroes and Horses**

Friday Evening, September 11, 2026 - 5:30 - 8:00pm

Join us for a special screening of the first hour of 'Rescued Hearts'; a powerful documentary exploring the miracles, mystery, and science of healing with horses.

Screening to be followed by a panel discussion featuring Veteran Service Organization Leadership and veterans regarding the efficacy of Equine-Assisted Services in helping veterans navigating the effects of trauma as they return to civilian life.

Reception Beginning at 5:30

***Dress Code - Veteran or Cowboy Casual -
please wear your favorite boots!***

Hors d'oeuvres Sponsored by

Tickets \$75

proceeds benefit equine-assisted programming
for veterans



Click QR code or visit: bit.ly/4eMmSyv - you may also call 603.497.2343

UpReach Therapeutic Equestrian Center

153 Paige Hill Road
Goffstown, NH 03045



Military Academy Nominations-Congresswoman Goodlander

From: Paul Lloyd <nhyfwstateheadquarters@gmail.com>

To:

Date: Sep 8, 2026, 10:05 AM

Hello All, Please see below: .

Dear students, parents, and friends,

I wanted to make sure you were aware that Congresswoman Maggie Goodlander's application process for students from the 2nd Congressional District of NH seeking a Military Academy Nomination is now available and open on the website: <https://goodlander.house.gov/services/military-academy-nominations/>

Please note: All applications for a Military Academy Nomination must be submitted by Friday, October 9, 2026.

If you have any questions or would like assistance, please feel free to reach out to the Congresswoman's office by calling 603.226.1002 or by emailing marin.stein@mail.house.gov

Thank you very much for your willingness to participate in this year's process! Please feel free to reach out any time.

Marin

Marin Stein

Director of Constituent Services

Marin.Stein@mail.house.gov

(603) 226-1002

Paul Lloyd

NH VFW State Adjutant/Quartermaster

603-496-1918 (C)

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