



POST 5744
SOUTH BERWICK MEMORIAL POST

May 2023 – May 2024
Yearbook

Yearbook of:

Post 5744

South Berwick Memorial Post

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

South Berwick, Maine

For: **May 2023 – May 2024**

By: Michael R. St. Pierre
Historian

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PART A

INTRODUCTION

The VFW⁽¹⁾



About Us:

Across America, the initials VFW are a familiar sight and symbolize a commitment to the nation both at home and abroad.

Our Mission: To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans.

Our Vision: Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.

Who We Are

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is a nonprofit veterans' service organization comprised of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, guard and reserve forces.

We trace our roots back to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902) founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service. Many arrived home wounded or sick. There was no medical care or veterans' pension for them, and they were left to care for themselves.

In their misery, some of these veterans banded together and formed organizations that would eventually band together and become known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. After chapters were formed in Ohio, Colorado and Pennsylvania, the movement quickly gained momentum. Today, membership stands at more than 1.4 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary.

Our voice was instrumental in establishing the Veterans Administration, development of the national cemetery system, in the fight for compensation for Vietnam vets exposed to Agent Orange and for veterans diagnosed with

Gulf War Syndrome. In 2008, we won a long-fought victory with the passing of a GI Bill for the 21st Century, giving expanded educational benefits to America's active-duty service members, and members of the guard and reserves, fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. We were the driving force behind the Veterans Access and Accountability Act of 2014, and continually fight for improved VA medical centers services for women veterans. The VFW's legislative advocacy efforts were also the driving force behind the passage of the 2019 Blue Water Navy Veteran Act, and the passage of the 2022 Honoring Our PACT Act, which the VFW considers one of the most significant pieces of veterans' legislation in history.

Besides helping fund the creation of the Vietnam, Korean War, World War II and Women in Military Service memorials, in 2005 the VFW became the first veterans' organization to contribute to building the new Disabled Veterans for Life Memorial, which opened in November 2010. And in 2015, we became the first supporter of the Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial which broke ground in July of 2022.

We have many programs and services that work to support veterans, service members and their families, as well as communities worldwide. Please spend some time browsing our web site (www.VFW.org) to learn why **No One Does More For Veterans.**

Our Core Values:

- Always put the interests of our members first
- Treat donors as partners in our cause
- Promote patriotism
- Honor military service
- Ensure the care of veterans and their families
- Serve our communities
- Promote a positive image of the VFW
- Respect the diversity of veteran opinions

(1) Information from www.vfw.com.



FACT SHEET

As the nation's oldest major war veterans' organization, the VFW has an impeccable and longstanding record of service and stewardship. More than 4.4 million patriotic Americans, both members and non-members, entrust the VFW with financial contributions and dedicate millions of volunteer hours.

THE VFW'S VITAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Educate separating service members about their well-earned VA benefits through private benefits counseling sessions with a VFW Accredited Service Officer.

Advocate for America's veterans and their families on Capitol Hill, ensuring *promises made* to veterans are *promises kept*.

Help cover rent, utilities or groceries for a military family struggling with the hardships of war.

Deliver morale-boosting "welcome home" celebrations for service members who have returned from combat.



2,300+

Number of VA-accredited VFW representatives across America and abroad, helping veterans fight for the VA benefits they have earned.

152,883

Number of service members and their family members hosted at VFW Military Assistance Program (MAP) events.

\$13 billion

The total annual amount the VFW helped veterans recoup in VA disability compensation and pension benefits in fiscal year 2023.

\$1.6 million+

Amount of academic scholarships awarded to 357 veterans and service members.

19

Number of times the VFW has testified to Congress in the last 12 months alone. The VFW has been instrumental in virtually every major legislative victory for veterans in the 20th and 21st centuries.

\$3 million+

Amount of scholarships, monetary awards and other incentives the VFW distributes annually to middle and high school students through two major patriotic essay competitions.

\$589,007

Value of financial assistance awarded to military families to help cover basic needs in times of crisis. 61% of the funds covered basic housing needs in fiscal year 2023.



JOIN THE VFW

Connect With Us



Updated December 2023

Learn more about the VFW's programs and services at vfw.org.



MORE FACTS ABOUT THE VFW

About the VFW

We trace our roots back to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902) founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service. Many arrived home wounded or sick. There was no medical care or veterans' pension for them, and they were left to care for themselves. In their misery, some of these veterans banded together and formed organizations that would eventually band together and become known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Our Mission: To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans.

Our Vision: Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.



The VFW by the numbers

1.4 million+

Number of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members.

5,667

Number of VFW Posts worldwide.



1899

Year the VFW started to fight for veterans, service members and their families.



Helping struggling military families

488

Number of grants provided to military families facing financial hardship through **VFW Unmet Needs**.

\$356,512

Amount of grants provided through **VFW Unmet Needs** covering housing for struggling military families.

253

Number of military families who received assistance with housing needs.



Cutting red tape

130,000

Approximate number of veterans the VFW assisted in submitting new VA claims in fiscal year 2023.

Nearly 14,400

Number of VA claims filed by the VFW's Pre-Discharge offices in fiscal year 2023 resulting in more than \$82 million in disability compensation.

20+

Number of VFW Pre-Discharge offices across the nation, including the military district of Washington, D.C., area.



Inspiring patriotism in young people

26,250+

Number of high school students who competed in the 2022-23 VFW Voice of Democracy competition.

66,800+

Number of students who competed in the 2022-23 VFW Patriot's Pen competition.



Improving life in America

5 million

Number of volunteer hours contributed by VFW members annually.

\$45 million

Amount donated annually to local community service projects by VFW members.

The VFW Relies on Donations

The VFW is a 501(c), and programs are made possible through membership dues and tax-deductible donations from good-hearted Americans.

Cost of VFW Program Services:
\$61.5 Million



Sources: VFW 2023 Annual Report

Updated December 2023



SUPPORT THE VFW

Learn more about the VFW at [vfw.org](https://www.vfw.org).

South Berwick Memorial Post

VFW – Post 5744 first mustered on February 26, 1946. The post has been instrumental in promoting nationalism and patriotism in the South Berwick area. It maintains an Honor Guard to carry on the traditions of honoring the United States flag, and to provide military honors at veteran funerals, memorial services, and celebrations of life. It provides information regarding veterans' legislative issues. It has contributed to the creation of honorific veteran grounds, like Memorial Plaza and Cleary-Collier Park.

The post leads in observances of Memorial Day, Veterans' Day, Flag Day, Loyalty Day, and Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. It assures that suitable grave markers, wreaths, and flags of the United States are placed on the graves of deceased members. It provides services for the proper disposal of United States flags.

It maintains a *Relief Fund* to provide aid, assist, relief, and comfort to needy or disabled veterans or members of the Armed Forces and their dependents, and the surviving spouses and orphans of deceased veterans. It provides donations to various community requests, including youth baseball programs, school band programs, and food insecurity programs. It contributes to the maintenance and expansion of the VFW National Home for Children. The Relief Fund is mostly supported through the VFW's Buddy Poppy program.

The post promotes youth scholarships through the VFW *Voice of Democracy* audio-essay program, which provides high school students the unique opportunity to express themselves regarding a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. It also encourages sixth through eighth grade students to enter the VFW *Patriot's Pen* youth essay contest, with the same aim. Post members often attend and participate in Veterans' Day programs at local schools.

Post funds come from various sources, like spaghetti suppers, ham and bean suppers, bottled water sales at the South Berwick Strawberry Festival, unique fundraising events (like the sale of refurbished snowplows), 50/50 fundraising efforts, and a "tollbooth" function on an in-town street at which Buddy Poppies are handed out.

The Post Congressional Charter (Rev. 12/4/2014) provides the following preamble:



Post 5744

South Berwick Memorial Post

(Mustered February 26, 1946)

VFW Congressional Charter (Rev: December 4, 2014)

The purposes of the post are fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable, and educational, and are –

- (1) to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members;
- (2) to assist worthy comrades;
- (3) to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their surviving spouses and orphans;
- (4) to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States, and fidelity to its Constitution and laws;
- (5) to foster true patriotism;
- (6) to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; and
- (7) to preserve and defend the United States from all enemies.

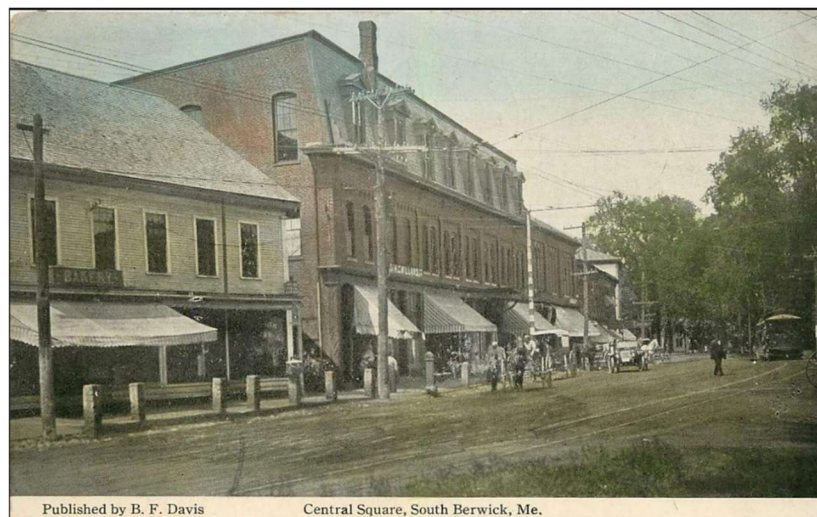
Our Community⁽²⁾

South Berwick is a town in York County, Maine. The village center is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is a Purple Heart Town.

South Berwick was first settled about 1631 as a trading post where the Salmon Falls River and the Great Works River join. A sawmill and gristmill were built at Assabumbadoc Falls in 1634. The town became home to Berwick Academy, a private, co-educational university-preparatory day school in 1791.

The Massachusetts General Court incorporated the area as Berwick in 1713, becoming the 9th oldest town in Maine. South Berwick was set off from Berwick and incorporated in 1814.

Various mills were erected along these rivers during the 19th century. The Portsmouth Manufacturing Company was established in 1831 at the head of navigation, Quampheagan Falls, on the Salmon Falls River. By 1868 this cotton textile mill was producing 2 million yards of sheeting per year. The mill closed in 1893 and most of its brick buildings were razed about 1917; only the Greek Revival Counting House remains and is now home to the Old Berwick Historical Society Museum.



South Berwick has hosted a Strawberry Festival on the last Saturday in June since 1976. Originally organized to celebrate the United States Bicentennial, its popularity has convinced the festival's organizers to hold it each year since. It includes shops, food, games, and rides for children. VFW – Post 5744 sells bottled water as a fundraiser at the festival.

(2) Historical information from Wikipedia.



The “Welcome to South Berwick” sign on Portland Avenue (State Route 4) near the bridge from Rollinsford, New Hampshire has the Purple Heart Town placard attached.

Close-up of Purple Heart Town sign.



The South Berwick town line indicator on Portland Avenue (SR 4) at the North Berwick boundary includes the Purple Heart Town placard.

VFW sign near the “Welcome to South Berwick” sign on Portland Avenue (SR 4) near the bridge from New Hampshire. The sign details the post meeting day of the week, time, and meeting location.



Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

Veterans' ties to South Berwick⁽³⁾

South Berwick has a long history of furnishing men and women during wars and conflicts. These men and women are venerated at Memorial Square, a small park which includes a Civil War Monument, an All-Wars Memorial, a Flagpole and three cast-iron cannons. The town's citizen sacrifices are also recognized by its Purple Heart Town designation.



Civil War Memorial

This soldier monument of white granite was dedicated on May 30, 1901. Its primary inscriptions include "South Berwick's Roll Of Honor / In Memory Of Our Fallen Comrades / We Fought In Obedience To The / Spirit Of Liberty / They Sleep But Their Works / Do Follow Them / 1861-1865"

The monument has over 200 names of those who served. The monument was funded by \$1,450 raised from projects and individual gifts.



All Wars Memorial

This granite monument was erected and dedicated in 1981. Its primary inscriptions include: "Dedicated To All Veterans Who Served Their Country From South Berwick, Maine" and "Presented 1981 / South Berwick Memorial Post 5744 / Veterans of Foreign Wars / Sullivan-Nowell Post 38 / American Legion"

The following are inscribed on the back side of the monument: "In Memoriam / World War I / Edwin Boston / Carlton Nowell / John Sullivan" / World War II / Keith Allen / Edward W. Bennett / Richard L. Chick / Walter I. Clark / Michael E. Doherty / Robert G.

Hayes / George A. Muzzey / John Minnitti / Claude Stackpole / Korean War / None / Vietnam War / James W. Cleary / Raymond L. Collier"

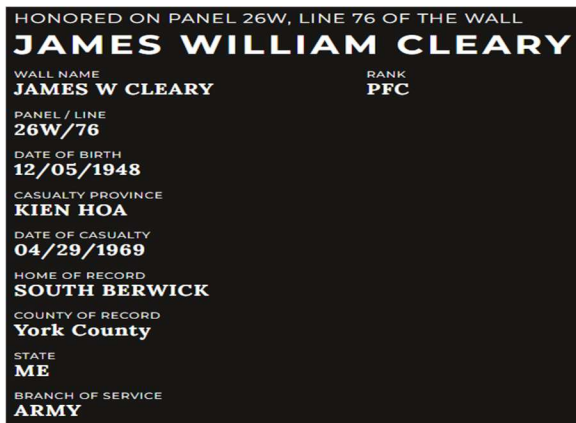
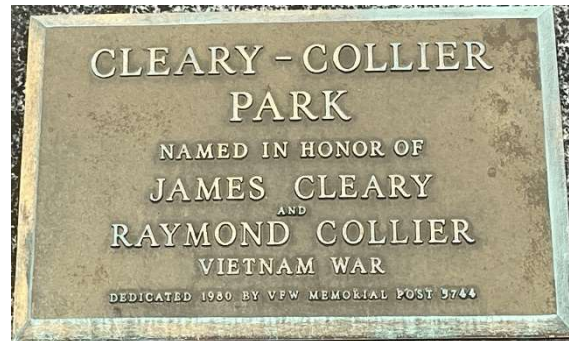
⁽³⁾ information and pictures from on-line sources.

The Town of South Berwick has additionally designated a park at the South Berwick Town Hall as the **Cleary – Collier Park**, named in honor of James W. Cleary and Raymond L Collier. These sons of South Berwick, while serving with the United States Army, sacrificed their lives in the Vietnam War.



Cleary-Collier Memorial on the front lawn of the South Berwick Town Hall. Below is information for the honorees.

Close-up of Cleary-Collier Park Placard.



HONORED ON PANEL 26W, LINE 76 OF THE WALL
JAMES WILLIAM CLEARY
 WALL NAME **JAMES W CLEARY** RANK **PFC**
 PANEL / LINE **26W/76**
 DATE OF BIRTH **12/05/1948**
 CASUALTY PROVINCE **KIEN HOA**
 DATE OF CASUALTY **04/29/1969**
 HOME OF RECORD **SOUTH BERWICK**
 COUNTY OF RECORD **York County**
 STATE **ME**
 BRANCH OF SERVICE **ARMY**



HONORED ON PANEL 24W, LINE 83 OF THE WALL
RAYMOND LYN COLLIER
 WALL NAME **RAYMOND L COLLIER** RANK **1LT**
 PANEL / LINE **24W/83**
 DATE OF BIRTH **12/22/1945**
 CASUALTY PROVINCE **LONG KHANH**
 DATE OF CASUALTY **05/23/1969**
 HOME OF RECORD **SOUTH BERWICK**
 COUNTY OF RECORD **York County**
 STATE **ME**
 BRANCH OF SERVICE **ARMY**

Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian; Information and Photos from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial web site.

Post Officers and Appointees



Commander

Jeffrey Chase: Jeff served in the United States Coast Guard – he was deployed to the Gulf War. Jeff joined VFW – Post 5744 in 2012. He has held various elected and appointed positions in the post; he is in his sixth term as Commander.



Senior Vice Commander

Barry Kray: Barry served in the United States Navy – he was deployed to Vietnam. He joined VFW – Post 5744 in 2018.



Junior Vice Commander

Michael Murray: Mike served in the United States Army – he was deployed to Vietnam. Michael joined VFW – Post 5744 in 2009.



Quartermaster

Marc Scheele: Marc served in the United States Marine Corps – he was deployed to Vietnam. Marc joined VFW – Post 5744 in 2012.



Trustee

Roger Guptil: Roger served in the United States Navy and in the United States Army Reserves – he was deployed to Vietnam. Roger joined VFW – Post 5744 in 2007. He has held various elected and appointed positions in the post.



Trustee

Malcolm Kenney: Mal served in the United States Marine Corps and the United States Air Force – he was deployed to Vietnam. Mel Joined VFW – Post 5744 in 1980. He has held various elected and appointed positions in the post. Mal also addresses Veterans' Legislative Issues.



Trustee

Hazen "Jim" Currier: Jim served in the United States Marine Corps – he was deployed to the Republic of Vietnam. He joined VFW – Post 5744 many years ago.



Alternate Trustee

Steve Shea: Steve served in the United States Army and the United States Air Force – he was stationed at Pease Air Force Base in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Steve joined VFW Post 5744 in 2004.



Chaplain

Bruce Brown: “Pastor” Brown served in the United States Army – he was deployed to Vietnam. He joined VFW – Post 5744 in 2007 and has been Chaplain for several years. He is also *Pastor Emeritus* of The Bible Speaks ministry in South Berwick.



Adjutant

Brent Roets: Brent served in the United States Navy – he was stationed on submarines. He joined VFW – Post 5744 in 2016.



Service Officer

Paul Lapierre: Paul served in the United States Army – he was deployed in Korea as a chemical engineer. Paul joined VFW – Post 5744 in 2002. He has served as Service Officer for several years.



Surgeon

Roger Guptil: See biography above.



Judge Advocate

Malcolm Kenney: See biography above.



Historian

Michael St. Pierre: Mike served in the United States Navy; he was stationed on the USS Oklahoma City (CLG5; based at Yokosuka, Japan) with occasional deployment to Vietnam. He joined VFW – Post 5744 in 2019.

Executive Committee and Board of Directors

President: Jeffrey Chase, Commander

Vice President: Barry Kray, Senior Vice Commander

Directors: Michael Murray, Marc Scheele, Roger Guptil, Paul Lapierre, John Elwell, Michael St. Pierre, Malcolm Kenney, Bryan English, Steve Shea, Gary Imbrie, Mike Bates, Daniel Kenney, Ed Hagan, Hank Hansen

Committees

Community Service, Youth Scholarship Activities

Barry Kray, Jeffrey Chase, Malcolm Kenney, John Elwell

Memorial Committee

Paul Lapierre, Jeffrey Chasse, Malcolm Kenney

Investment Committee

Roger Guptil (Secretary), Jeffrey Chasse, Barry Kray, Bryan English, John Elwell

Membership Committee

Mike Murray, Barry Kray, Steve Shea, Bruce Brown, Paul Lapierre, Roger Guptil, Barry Kray, Paul Diego

Budget Committee

Mike Scheele, Mike Murray, Roger Guptil, Mike St. Pierre, Jeffrey Chase

Veteran and Community Support (Fundraising)

Roger Guptil, Malcolm Kenney, Jeffrey Chase

Webmaster (Facebook)

Hank Hanson:

Where We Meet

VFW – Post 5744 / South Berwick Memorial Post meets at 1730 every second Monday of the month, September through May, at Mainly Local Yokes – 43 State Route 236 in Berwick, Maine.



Mainly Local Yokes' Logo



Mainly Local Yokes Restaurant in the Berwick Post Office Plaza



Proprietors Justin and Elizabeth Canton are exceptionally accommodating to VFW – Post 5744

Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

PART B

POST ACTIVITIES

May 8, 2023: VFW – Post 5744 mustered at Mainely Local Yokes for a regular meeting.



Minutes of Regular Meeting on 5-8-23

18 Members Present, including:

Commander – Jeffrey Chase

Senior Vice Commander – Barry Kray

Junior Vice Commander – Michael Murray

Quartermaster – Ed Hagan

*Robert Place has an excused absence.

Adjutant -Brent Roets

Chaplain – Bruce Brown

Service Officer – Paul Lapierre

Historian – Robert Place*

Opening:

1738: Post Meeting called to order by Commander Jeffrey Chase, as per VFW Ritual.

- We Rose for Pledge of Allegiance.

1740: Opening Prayer by Chaplain Bruce Brown

- Commenced Annual Installation Dinner

1815: Resumed abbreviated business meeting.

1825: Installation of Officers and Appointees* by John Elwell.

Minutes:

1. Upon motion duly made by Barry Kray, and seconded by Malcolm Kenney, it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes of the Post meeting held on 4/17/23.

Quartermaster's Report:

1. Quartermaster Marc Scheele gave his Financial Report for the month ending 4/30/23. Upon motion duly made by Malcolm Kenney, and seconded by Mike Murray, it was unanimously voted to accept the Quartermaster's financial report, subject to audit.

Service Officer's Report:

1. Service Officer Paul Lapierre identified the following people as experiencing medical issues. For further information contact Paul.
 - a. Barry Stevens
 - b. Bill Wengers
 - c. Ray Brunelle

- d. Freeman Lane
- e. Thomas Joyce

New Members Report:

- 1. The Post voted in a new member, Lin Bergeron, who served in the United States Navy in 1974.

Membership Committee Report:

- 1. Not reported at this time.

Veterans' Legislative Issues:

- 1. Not reported at this time.

Correspondence:

- 1. Not reported at this time.

Old Business:

- 1. Not reported at this time.

New Business:

- 1. On 5/20/23 at 0900 at Woodlawn Cemetery we will be meeting to put out American Flags.
- 2. A call for volunteers was put out to support our water sales at the South Berwick Strawberry Festival on 6/24/23.
- 3. The Post will be participating in the South Berwick Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade on 5/29/23. Muster will be at 1030 at Central School.

Good of the Order:

- 1. Reminder to get your 2 dose shingle vaccines.
- 2. Reminder to get your flu shots.
- 3. Reminder to get you Covid booster shots.

Next Post Meeting:

- 1. **Our next meeting will be at 1730 on 9/11/23 at Mainely Local Yolks.**

Dates to Remember:

1. Post Honor Guard Practices are the first Monday of the month at 1830. The Post Honor Guard needs members. Contact Dennis Ouellette to join.
2. Our Annual Post Picnic will be on 8/19/23 at Malcom Kenney's house. Need help the evening of 8-18-23 to set up tents.

Closing Prayer:

1841: Closing Prayer given by Chaplain Bruce Brown.

Vote to Adjourn:

1. Upon motion duly made by Commander Jeff Chase, and seconded, by Adjutant Brent Roets, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 1843.

* Note: Michael St. Pierre replaced Robert Place as Historian during the Installation of Officers and Appointees.

May 20, 2023: Members of VFW – Post 5744 along with members of Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Troup No. 338 (South Berwick) and BSA Troup 180 (Dover, NH) mustered at Woodlawn Cemetery in South Berwick to place United States Flags on veterans' graves.



Malcolm Kenney gives instructions to those assembled.

Marc Scheele inspects a veteran's marker before attaching a United States flag to the veteran marker.



A Scoutmaster from BSA Troup 180 (Dover) places a flag on a veteran's marker.



John Ford, Malcolm Kenney, and Jeff Chase refresh the cemetery's main flag.



VFW – Post 5744 members Michael Murray, John Ford, Marc Scheele, Daniel Kenney, Malcolm Kenney, Roger Guptil, and Jeffrey Chase, along with members of BSA Troop 180 (Dover) and BSA Troup 338 (South Berwick).

Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

May 29, 2023: Members of VFW – Post 5744, including its Honor Guard, mustered in downtown South Berwick along with Boy Scouts, Firefighters, a H.S. marching band, a children’s bicycle ensemble, and local citizens for a Memorial Day parade and observances. A wreath was placed at the Cleary – Collier Park Memorial, located at the South Berwick Town Hall, the parade followed Main Street and Portland Avenue to Memorial Plaza, where observance ceremonies were held. VFW – Post 5744 Commander Jeffrey Chase was Master of Ceremonies.



VFW – Post 5744 Color Guard parades to the Cleary-Collier Park Memorial at the South Berwick Town Hall.

Malcolm Kenney and Jeffrey Chase place a wreath at the Cleary-Collier Park Memorial, step back, and provide a hand salute with the Post Color Guard and members of the post.



VFW – Post 5744 Color Guard and members follow the parade’s lead car on Main Street. The post is followed by South Berwick firefighters, a children’s bicycle ensemble, the Marchwood H.S. marching band and various town public service vehicles (firefighters, police).



Commander Jeffrey Chase was Master of Ceremonies for the observances at Memorial Plaza. Chaplain Bruce Brown provided the invocation.

Veteran members provided a “hand salute” while the citizenry placed their hands over their hearts during the “Pledge of Allegiance”.



The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Raymond Gamble. Dr. Gamble graduated from West Point with a B.S in National Security and Public Affairs. He subsequently earned an M.S. in European History and a Ph.D. in European History (Britain). Dr. Gamble was with the teaching faculty at West Point and, upon retirement from the United States

Army, joined the teaching faculty at Portsmouth Christian Academy.

Malcolm Kenny rings a bell as Jeffrey Chase reads the names of those VFW – Post 5744 members who died within the past year.





Dr. Gamble placed a wreath at the base of the Civil War Monument. He and Commander Jeffrey Chase lead a hand salute in their honor.

Dr. Gamble subsequently placed a wreath at the base of the All-Wars Memorial, and a hand salute was again offered.

The VFW – Post 5744 Honor Guard provided a three-volley salute.



A trumpeter from the Marshwood High School marching band played “Taps”.

Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

June 24, 2023: Members of VFW – Post 5744 set up a booth at South Berwick’s Strawberry Festival to provide information and sign-up opportunities to fellow veterans; and to sell bottled water and raffle chances as fundraisers. The raffle items were donated by members; the winning ticket holders were called later that day.



Ed Hagan, Bruce Brown, Garry Embrie, Jeff Chasse, and Joel Hilton man the main booth located in the back parking lot at South Berwick’s Central School. Water sales were reported to be “slow” due to inclement weather.

Malcolm Kenney attends the Information and sign-up booth which was adjacent to the main booth. A picture board behind Mal helps him illustrate what the post is all about and the kinds of activities it pursues.



Brent Roets attends a remote water sales station. The wagon was located at the front side of Central School, near where the main Strawberry tent was located.

Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

August 19, 2023: Members of VFW – Post 5744 gathered with their families at the home of Malcolm Kenney for the post's annual barbeque social. There were roughly 50 members and guests present.



Jeff Chase – Welcome



Paster Brown – Prayer



Brent Roets – Cook



Serving Table



Serving Table



Desert Table



Mess Hall!



Barry Kray – Comfortable?



Happy Guests!

Photos provided by Malcolm Kenney.

**September 11, 2023: VFW – Post 5744 mustered at Mainely
Local Yokes for a regular meeting**



Minutes of Regular Meeting on 9-11-23

11 Members Present

Commander – Jeffrey Chase

Adjutant -Brent Roets*

Senior Vice Commander – Barry Kray

Chaplain – Bruce Brown*

Junior Vice Commander – Michael Murray

Service Officer – Paul Lapierre

Quartermaster – Marc Scheele

Historian – Michael St. Pierre*

*Absent members: Brent Roets, Bruce Brown, and Michael St. Pierre

Opening:

Meeting called to order by Commander Jeffrey Chase, as per VFW Ritual.

We Rose for Pledge of Allegiance.

Opening Prayer by Service Officer Paul Lapierre.

Resumed business meeting.

Minutes:

1. Upon motion duly made, by Mike Murray, and seconded, by John Elwell, it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes of the Post meeting held on 5/8/23.

Quartermaster's Report:

1. Quartermaster Marc Scheele gave his financial report for the months ending 6/30/23, 7/31/23, and 8/31/23. Upon motion duly made by Malcolm Kenney, and seconded by Mike Murray, it was unanimously voted to accept the Quartermaster's financial report, subject to audit.

Service Officer's Report:

1. Service Officer Paul Lapierre indicated that the following were experiencing medical issues. Additional information can be gotten from Paul.
 - a. Freeman Lane
 - b. Steve Shae
 - c. Bill Weners
 - d. Thomas Joyce

New Members Report:

1. Roger Guptil reported that we have two prospective new members and three interested people.
 - a. Upon motion duly made and seconded by Membership Committee Members, consisting of Roger Guptill, Mike Murray, Barry Kray, and Paul Lapierre, it was unanimously voted to recommend to the Post the acceptance of Shelley Landry and Jason Legendre as new members.
 - b. Upon motion duly made by Paul Lapierre, and seconded by Marc Scheele, it was unanimously voted to accept to the Post new Annual Members **Shelley Landry** and **Jason Legendre**.



Shelly Landry (picture from a subsequent meeting)

No picture available for Jason Legendre.

Membership Committee Report:

1. See above.

Veterans' Legislative Issues:

1. Malcolm Kenney discussed contacting our representatives about paying the Coast Guard if the government shuts down.

Correspondence:

1. Thank you card from the American Cancer Society.
2. Purple Heart Proclamation: South Berwick has now been deemed a Purple Heart Town. (See Proclamation at the end of this report)

Old Business:

1. Not reported at this time.

New Business:

1. Volunteer Poppy Toll Scheduled for November 4 (Refer to file info from last year.).
2. Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance Ceremony, Scheduled for December 7. (Refer to file info from last year.).
3. Veteran's Day which includes Post's Honor Guard and a Color Guard, scheduled for Saturday, November 11, at the South Berwick Town Hall? Guest Speaker TBD.
4. Marshwood Middle School will be having their Veteran's Day Ceremony on 11/3/23. More information to follow.
5. The turnout for the South Berwick Strawberry Festival was not as good as it has been in years past, mainly due to the weather for the day. For financial information from that day contact the Quartermaster.
6. Discussion was had on the Post's annual 50/50 raffle. We will be proceeding forward with it.
7. Upon motion duly made by Barry Kray, and seconded by Marc Scheele, it was unanimously voted to amend the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Expenditure Budget by adding a line item for \$300 for new "Purple Heart Town" signs.



Picture of the proposed signs. Specification is for 12" x 18" x 0.080" thick aluminum signs with white powder coating (both sides) and with vinyl graphics applied to the front surfaces. Each sign will have 0.50" holes top and bottom for mounting.

8. Upon motion duly made by Malcom Kenney, and seconded by Roger Guptill, it was unanimously voted to approve funds up to \$500 for 4 new vinyl Post rodeside signs, 4 smaller meeting location and time signs, and incidental installation costs.



This is a picture from the sign proof. Specification is for 12” x 18” x 0.080” thick aluminum signs with white powder coating (both sides) and with vinyl graphics applied to the front surfaces. The smaller sign will be 12” x 6” x 0.080” thick aluminum with similar finish.

Each sign will have 0.50” holes top and bottom for mounting.

Good of the Order:

1. Reminder to get your 2 dose shingle vaccines.
2. Reminder to get your flu shots.
3. Reminder to get you Covid booster shots.

Next Post Meeting:

1. **Our next meeting will be on 10/11/23 at 1730 at Mainely Local Yolks.**

Dates to Remember:

1. Post Honor Guard Practices are the first Monday of the month at 1830. The Post Honor Guard needs members. Contact Dennis Ouellette to join.

Closing Prayer:

1. Closing Prayer by Service Officer Paul Lapierre.

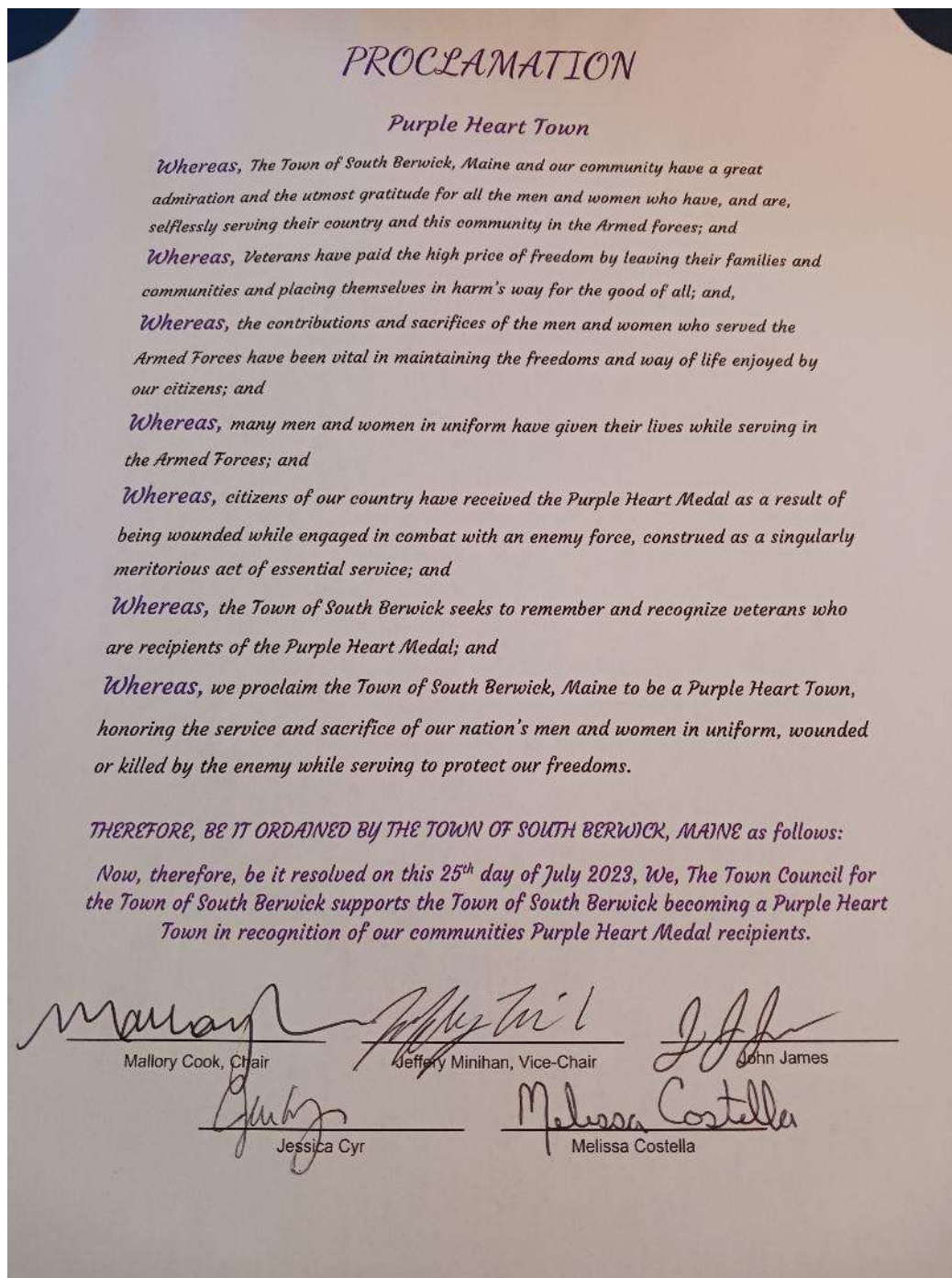
Vote to Adjourn:

1. Upon motion duly made by Commander Jeff Chase, and seconded by Malcolm Kenney, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.

* Meeting minutes were transcribed from a recording. Some information was not able to be determined.

Post 50/50 Drawing Winner: Paul Lapierre

Free Meal Drawing Winner: John Dennett



Proclamation – Purple Heart Town

Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

October 11, 2023: VFW – Post 5744 mustered at Mainely Local Yokes for a regular meeting.



Minutes of Regular Meeting on 10-11-23

16 Members Present, 1 Guest

Commander – Jeffrey Chase*

Senior Vice Commander – Barry Kray

Junior Vice Commander – Michael Murray

Quartermaster – Marc Scheele

* Jeffrey Chase has an excused absence.

Adjutant – Brent Roets

Chaplain – Bruce Brown

Service Officer – Paul Lapierre

Historian – Michael St. Pierre

Opening:

1734: Post Meeting called to order by Senior Vice Commander Barry Kray, as per VFW Ritual.

- We Rose for Pledge of Allegiance.

1735: Opening Prayer by Chaplain Bruce Brown.

1736: Guest Speaker Kris Bisson came to talk to us about the Veterans' Day Ceremony at Marshwood Middle School.

1800: Resumed business meeting.

During the mealtime, Senior Vice Commander Barry Kray hands the microphone over to Ms. Kris Bison, Music Educator / Coral Director at Marshwood Middle School. Ms. Bisson informed the members of the Veterans' Day Ceremony they were planning at the school and invited members to attend.



Minutes:

1. Upon motion duly made by Bryan English, and seconded, by Mike Bates, it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes of the Post meeting held on 9/11/23.

Quartermaster's Report:

1. Quartermaster Marc Scheele gave his Financial Report for the month ending 9/30/23. Upon motion duly made by Malcolm Kenney, and seconded by Bryan English, it was unanimously voted to accept the Quartermaster's financial report, subject to audit.
2. Quartermaster Marc Scheele gave an investment report. For details contact Marc.

Service Officer's Report:



1. Service Officer Paul Lapierre noted:
 - a. Ray Brunelle passed away on October 10th. Funeral services will be at Tasker Funeral Home in Dover, NH. (At the time of writing out the minutes, his service was held on 10/18/23.)
 - b. Kenny Reno is at Langdon Place in Dover, NH for rehab. He is in room 503.

New Members Report: (voted)

1. Roger Guptil reported that a VFW member wanted to transfer into Post 5744.
 - a. Upon motion duly made and seconded by Membership Committee Members, it was unanimously voted by the Membership Committee (Roger Guptill, Mike Murray, Barry Kray, Bruce Brown, and Paul Lapierre) to recommend to the Post the acceptance of Frank Puopolo as a transfer member.
 - b. Upon motion duly made by Bryan English, and seconded by Bill Wenners, it was unanimously voted to accept new member **Frank Puopolo**'s transfer into Post 5744.



Frank Puopolo and other post members watch the membership proceedings.

Roger Guptil guides the Membership Committee vote and then the Post vote regarding transfer member Frank Puopolo, as Junior Vice Commander Michael Murray looks on.



Membership Committee Report:

2. See above.

Veterans' Legislative Issues:

1. Mal Kenney suggested that we all contact our representatives about continuing pay for United States Coast Guardsmen if the government shuts down.

Correspondence:

1. Nothing at this time.

Old Business:

1. Roger Guptil discussed the need for Toll Booth (Poppy Drive) Volunteers.

New Business:

1. The Poppy Drive – Toll Booth is scheduled for November 4th at the South Berwick Town Hall. A volunteer schedule was circulated.
2. The Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Ceremony is scheduled for December 7th at the boat landing.
3. Veteran's Day Ceremonies, including the Post Honor Guard, are scheduled for Saturday, November 11th at 1400 at the South Berwick

- Town Hall. The keynote speaker will be Mike Runey, Head of Portsmouth Christian Academy.
4. Marshwood Middle School will be having their annual Veterans' Day Ceremony on November 3rd. More information to follow.
 5. Discussion was held regarding the Post's annual 50/50 raffle. We will proceed with it. The drawing will be held at the Post's November meeting.
 6. Discussion was held concerning the VFW's Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy Essay programs. There is now 35k available from National for the winning scholarship.
 7. Cemetery flags will be removed on November 18th. Time for the United States Flag Retiring Ceremony is TBD.

Good of the Order:

1. Reminder to get your 2 dose shingle vaccines.
2. Reminder to get your flu shots.
3. Reminder to get you Covid booster shots.

Next Post Meeting:

1. **Our next meeting will be on 11/13/23 at 1730 at Mainely Local Yolks.**

Dates to Remember:

1. Post Honor Guard Practices are the first Monday of the month at 1830. The Post Honor Guard needs members – contact Dennis Ouellette to join.

Closing Prayer:

1840: Closing Prayer by Chaplain Bruce Brown.

Vote to Adjourn:

1842: Upon motion duly made by Bill Wenners, and seconded by Hank Hansen, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.

November 3, 2023: VFW – Post 5744 Commander Jeffrey Chase, Senior Vice Commander Barry Kray, Malcolm Kenney, Historian Michael St. Pierre, and possibly others attended Marshwood Middle School's twenty-third annual assembly "In Honor of Our Veterans," at the invitation of school and program administrators. To any who never attended this gathering, it is truly humbling.



The school's lobby was decorated with banners representing the various branches of the armed forces, including large "Dog Tags" hanging from the ceiling.

At the start, honored Veterans line the two halls from the cafeteria to the gymnasium. Students later walk through these corridors on their way to the assembly, shaking every vet's hand they can reach – every student, every vet.



Once every student has passed and situated themselves in the gymnasium, the program began with the "March of the Veterans" where we marched to the gym, entering to thunderous applaud. The rest of the program is as described in the following "Program Guide".

Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

**MARSHWOOD
MIDDLE SCHOOL**
presents their twenty-third
annual assembly



November 3, 2023



MARCH OF THE VETERANS.....	Dave McLean, bagpiper
PRESENTING AND POSTING THE COLORS.....	Eliot Police Honor Guard
THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.....	Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts
THE NATIONAL ANTHEM.....	Makenna Jones
SLIDESHOW.....	"I Fought for You"
OPENING WELCOME.....	Mrs. Christine Goulet, Principal
SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME.....	Mr. John Caverly, Superintendent
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Interpreted by Red Skelton.....	Grade Seven
"LET FREEDOM RING"	Grade Six, Seven & Eight Chorus
RECOGNIZING OUR FIRST RESPONDERS.....	Officer Ryan Mazur, EPD
RECOGNIZING OUR VETERANS.....	Mr. Scott Carson

Front Cover and first page of the Program Guide.

ARMED FORCES ON PARADE **A Medley of US Military Marches**
* **VETERANS:** Please stand when you hear your song *
Air Force Song: Wild Blue Yonder, The Marines' Hymn,
US Coast Guard: Semper Paratus,
US Army: The Caisson Song, US Navy: Anchors Away

HONORING OUR PURPLE HEART TOWNS.....Grade Six

A TRIBUTE TO THE FALLEN SOLDIERS OF MAINE:

"TAPS" Clara Eager and Lilla Eter, trumpet

THE FALLEN..... Dave McLean, bagpipes

"AMERICAN PATROL"Grade Seven & Eight Band

160TH ANNIVERSARY: GETTYSBURG ADDRESS.....Grade Eight

PRESENTATION TO PEASE GREETERS.....Marshwood Little Hawks

CLOSING COMMENTS.....Mrs. Christine Goulet, Principal
Mrs. Kris Bisson, Coordinator

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING OUR CELEBRATION.
WE ESPECIALLY WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING:

- **Celebration hosts:** Liam O'Keefe and Kyle Riley
- **Audio-visual engineers:** Mr. Petrie and Mr. McGary
- **Reception:** Mrs. Lathrop and Mrs. Sanzone
- **Parking Assistance:** Eliot Police Department
- **Wheelchair assistance:** Nurse Judy
- **SPECIAL THANKS:** Maine Military Museum & Lee Humiston, Marshwood High School for flags, Jeff Tarr of Lindt Chocolate, Moo's Italian Sandwiches of Portsmouth, Starbucks Coffee, Hannaford, Susan Knowles of Just the Thing, Terry Travers & Home Depot, Loretta Bugbee, MMS Custodians & Facilities, and to all our Marshwood families for their donations
- **SPECIAL GUESTS:** Please join us for a complimentary luncheon in our cafeteria with our Grade Eight students.
- **Following the luncheon:** Please share your stories in our Grade Eight classrooms.

We remember those veterans and first responders who have passed since our assembly last year.

☆☆☆☆☆

Second page and back cover of the Program Guide.

November 4, 2023: Members of VFW – Post 5744 set up their annual “Toll Booth” fundraiser with Buddy Poppy distribution on Main Street (State Route 236) in front of the South Berwick Town Hall. Members helping with this campaign included Commander Jeffrey Chase, Chaplain Bruce Brown, Daniel Kenney, Hank Hansen, Quartermaster Marc Scheele, Historian Michael St. Pierre, Ed Hagen, and others.



The toll booth is arranged within the turning lane in the center of the road, in-between the east and west bound lanes of Main Street.

The VFW sign with Buddy Poppy illustration and “Wear it Proudly” inscription identifies the toll booth’s purpose. Manning one end of the booth is Daniel Kenney.





Hank Hansen manning a post at one end of the toll booth.



Paster Brown, manning one end of the toll booth, waves to a passer-by.



Quartermaster Marc Scheele and Barry Kray man the command post.

Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

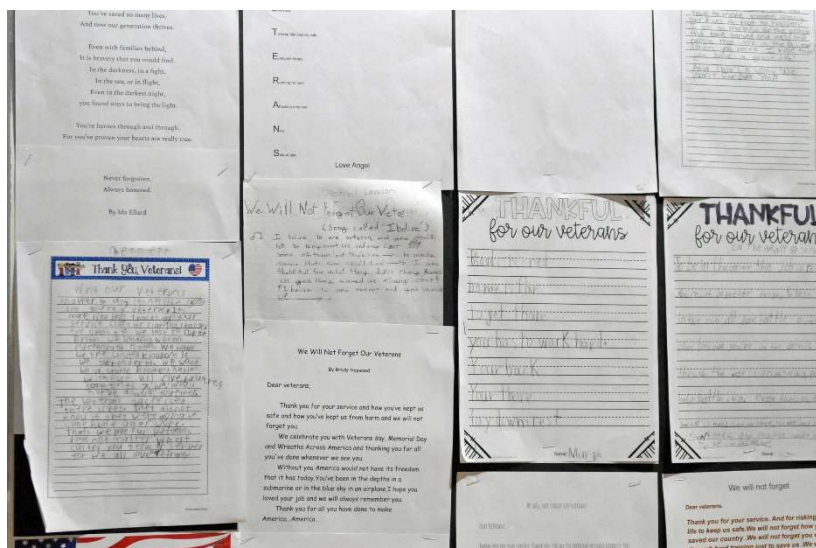
November 9, 2023: VFW – Post 5744 Commander Jeffrey Chase, Senior Vice Commander Barry Kray, Malcolm Kenney, Historian Michael St. Pierre, and possibly others attended Marshwood Great Works School’s annual assembly “In Honor of Veterans”, at the invitation of school and program administrators.

The whole school participated through choirs, readings, and skits. Active service members stationed at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard provided a flag folding demonstration and answered questions from the student body. VFW – Post 5744 provided a Color Guard – Mal posting the United States flag and Jeff posting the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States flag.



Jeff, Mal, and Barry at the entrance to the gymnasium where a sign directs veterans to sit in the chairs in the center of the gym.

A display board off to the side had “Letters to Veterans” – most were letters of thanks for our service.





The program began with the posting of the colors. Jeff and Mal marched down the center aisle and posted the colors to either side of the student choir.

Jeff posted the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States flag at the right side of the student choir.



The Student Choir appeared to involve the entire student body – they sang numerous patriotic and theme-appropriate songs.

A beloved retired educator from the school read John McCrae's "In Flanders Fields" – the poem that inspired National Poppy Day:

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row by row
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from falling hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If you break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though the poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



The Missing Man Table, sometimes referred to as the "Fallen Comrade Table" is meant to remind viewers of those fallen, missing, or imprisoned U.S. military service members.

A bare table was carried out and a group of students started dressing it, noting

the symbolism each item on the table represents for those who did not come home. The table, the white cloth, the single rose, the red ribbon, a slice of lemon, a pinch of salt, the lighted candle, (the Bible), the inverted glass, the empty chair – the seat that remains unclaimed at the table.



Active-duty personnel from Portsmouth Naval Shipyard discussed their duties and experiences in the armed forces.



Active-duty personnel from Portsmouth Naval Shipyard fielded questions from the student body.

Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

November 11, 2023: VFW – Post 5744 along with its Honor Guard, representatives from the Town of South Berwick, Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Troup 338 (South Berwick), guests, and town citizens gathered at the South Berwick Town Hall for a South Berwick Veterans Day Ceremony.



Commander Jeffrey Chase was Master of Ceremony, which was co-sponsored by South Berwick Memorial Post and the Town of South Berwick. The room was well decorated with service-themed materials; as is apparent where Jeff was standing.

BSA Troup 338 provided a Color Guard for posting the flag.



South Berwick Councilwoman Melissa Costella sang the National Anthem at the beginning of the ceremony.



South Berwick Town Manager Timothy Pellerin holds a new Purple Heart Town sign while Councilwoman Mallory Cook reads the Purple Heart Town Proclamation as Commander Jeffrey Chase looks on.

The Keynote Speaker for the event was Retired United States Army Colonel Michael Runey. Colonel Rumney received a Bachelor of Science (BS) in International and Strategic History: Systems Engineering from the United States Military Academy at West Point, and a master's degree in Military Strategic Studies, General from the United States Army War College. He is presently Head of School at Portsmouth Christian Academy. Colonel Runey gave a heartfelt account of what it means to serve.



The South Berwick Memorial Post Honor Guard was seated for the opening ceremonies; however, they exited to complete Military Honors (three-volley salute / playing of "Taps") outdoors near the end of the ceremony.

Malcolm Kenney spoke to the assembly after the Color Guard had departed to complete the outdoors honors. Mal thanked the Boy Scouts for all they do for the community and encouraged them to “stay strong”.



BSA Troup 338 Retired the Colors at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Refreshments were served at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

November 19, 2023: Members of VFW – Post 5744 along with members of Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Troup No. 338 (South Berwick) and BSA Troup 180 (Dover, NH) mustered at Woodlawn Cemetery in South Berwick to remove the United States flags from veterans' graves which were placed in May.



The group gathered and began organizing around Malcolm Kenney's car. It was a cold, blustery day, but all were well dressed.



The assembled group after all flags were picked up. The assembly included John Ford, Junior Vice Commander Michael Murray, Commander Jeffrey Chase, Malcolm Kenney, and Historian Michael St. Pierre.

The flags will be brought to Mal Kenney's home for incineration during a proper **"Flag Retirement Service and Ceremony"**.

Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

November 20, 2023: VFW – Post 5744 mustered at Mainely Local Yokes for a regular meeting

Minutes of Regular Meeting on 11-20-23

16 Members Present



Commander – Jeffrey Chase

Senior Vice Commander – Barry Kray

Junior Vice Commander – Michael Murray

Quartermaster – Marc Scheele

Post Adjutant, Brent Roets, was absent, excused.

Adjutant -Brent Roets

Chaplain – Bruce Brown

Service Officer – Paul Lapierre

Historian – Michael St. Pierre

Opening:

1733: Post Meeting called to order Commander Jeffrey Chase, as per VFW Ritual.

- We Rose for Pledge of Allegiance.

1734: Opening Prayer by Chaplain Pastor Bruce Brown.

1808: Resumed business meeting.



Commander Jeffrey Chase provides information as the post settles in for their meal.

A parent of a Marshwood Middle School student presented Commander Chase with a platter of cookies and a United States Flag image with student names and a “Thank You” on the back as gratitude for the post’s participation in their school’s Veteran’s Day Ceremony.



Post Minutes:

1. Upon motion duly made and seconded by Post members, it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes of the Post meeting held on 10/11/23.

Post Quartermaster's Report:

1. Quartermaster Marc Scheele gave his Financial Report for the month ending 10/31/23. Upon motion duly made and seconded by Post members, it was unanimously voted to accept the Quartermaster's financial report, subject to audit.
2. Quartermaster Marc Scheele also gave an investment report. For details contact Marc.
3. A discussion was had on ways to increase our charitable donations using funds raised throughout the year.



Post Service Officer's Report:

1. Service Officer Paul Lapierre indicated that the following members were experiencing medical issues. For more detailed information and how you can help, contact Paul.
 - a. Bill Weners
 - b. Freeman Lane
 - c. Wayne Jacobs
 - d. Kenneth Shorey

New Members Report:

1. Frank Puopolo was formally introduced to the Post and presented with a ball cap. Frank was voted into the Post during the October meeting.

Membership Committee Report:

1. Nothing at this time.

Legislative Business:

1. Malcolm Kenney discussed contacting our representatives about paying the Coast Guard if the government shuts down. For more information contact Mal.
2. Commander Jeff Chase and Roger Guptill received the All-State Post Commander Award (white covers).
3. Commander Jeff Chase discussed the VA recruiting personnel to help other veterans in need. For more information contact Jeff.
4. Discussion was had on the combining of the Somersworth and Portsmouth VA service centers to better meet the needs of the community.



Correspondence:

1. Nothing at this time.

Old Business:

1. Malcolm Kenney reported that our Post had no Voice of Democracy, Patriot Pen, or Teacher of the Year Applications this year. More help is needed spreading the word among the schools in our area. If you would like to help, contact Barry Kray or Malcolm.
2. A discussion was had on contributing \$200 to the VFW – District 11 Quartermaster in support of their programs. A motion was put forth, modified, and passed (see new business 6a below).

New Business:

1. Volunteer Poppy Toll raised approximately \$8,000. Thank you to all who helped.
2. Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony, scheduled for December 7th at 0800.
3. The Post's annual 50/50 raffle was drawn on 11/13/23.
4. Discussion was had on how our Post can help increase awareness and participation in our local Scouting programs.

5. Discussion was had on adopting specific Post By-laws. We are not allowed to adopt the national By-laws anymore and must come up with our own. For further information contact Commander Jeff Chase.



Brian English addresses the members.

6. After discussion and upon motion duly made by Brian English, and seconded by Barry Kray, it was unanimously voted to AMEND the Post Expenditure Budget for fiscal year 7-1-23 thru 6-30-24 as follows:
- a. ADD a new line item to the "Post Relief Fund" section, "Spec. D-11 VOD/P.P. Donation" in the amount of \$300. (This is a special one-time donation to assist VFW District 11 with "Voice of Democracy" and Patriots Pen" essay winner monetary awards for the 23/24 fiscal year.)
 - b. CHANGE line-item amount, for "D-11 Meeting "Yokes" from \$300 to \$0. (Our Post will not be hosting a District 11 meeting in the 23/24 fiscal year.)
 - c. CHANGE line-item amount for "D-11 Meeting Raffle Donation" from \$50 to \$0. (No 23/24 fiscal year District 11 meeting at "YOKES", so no donation needed in lieu of raffling off a Post item with funds going to D-11 treasury.)

- d. ADD a new line item to the "Post Relief Fund" Section, "Poppy Drive Lunches" in the amount not to exceed \$200. (Purpose of expenditure is for purchasing "sub sandwiches", for Post Volunteers helping at the Poppy Toll and also the people, at Mal's house, sorting and counting the funds being collected. It should be noted that the type of "subs" will be as requested, by each person, and will be for those working the "drive" time lunch time hours.)

Good of the Order:

1. Reminder to get your 2 dose shingle vaccines.
2. Reminder to get your flu shots.
3. Reminder to get you Covid booster shots.

Next Post Meeting:

1. **Our next meeting will be on 12/11/23 at 1730 at Mainely Local Yolks.**

Dates to Remember:

1. Post Honor Guard Practices are the first Monday of the month at 1830. The Post Honor Guard needs members. Contact Dennis Ouellette to join.

Closing Prayer:

1854: Closing Prayer by Chaplain Pastor Bruce Brown.

Vote to Adjourn:

1856: Upon motion duly made and seconded, by Post Members, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.

* Meeting Transcribed from a recording. Some information such as specific names for motions was not available.

December 7, 2023: VFW – Post 5744 mustered at the Counting House Park in South Berwick to commemorate National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. Also known as Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day or Pearl Harbor Day, it is observed annually in the United States on December 7th to remember and honor the 2,403 Americans who were killed in the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941, which led the United States to declare war on Japan the next day and thus entering World War II. Commander Jeffrey Chase was Master of Ceremony on this frigid winter day.



Post 5744 members assemble in preparation for the observance service.

Commander Jeff Chase provided opening comments and the reason for our assembly.



Paster Bruce Brown read a bible passage and provided a short prayer.



Malcolm Kenney carried a ceremonial wreath and tossed it into the flowing water of the Salmon Falls River. Members encircled Jeff.



The Post 5744 Honor Guard provided a three-volley salute.

Frank Puopolo bugled “taps”.



Several civilians attended the observance, despite the bitter cold weather. God Bless these patriots!

December 11, 2023: VFW – Post 5744 mustered at Mainely Local Yokes for a regular meeting.



Minutes of Regular Meeting on 12-11-23

17 Members Present

Commander – Jeffrey Chase

Senior Vice Commander – Barry Kray

Junior Vice Commander – Michael Murray

Quartermaster – Marc Scheele

Adjutant -Brent Roets

Chaplain – Bruce Brown

Service Officer – Paul Lapierre

Historian – Michael St. Pierre

Opening:

1733: Post Meeting called to order by Senior Vice Commander Barry Kray, as per VFW Ritual.

- We Rose for Pledge of Allegiance.

1734: Opening Prayer by Chaplain Bruce Brown.

1807: Resumed business meeting.



Quartermaster Marc Scheele, Senior Vice Commander Barry Kray, Junior Vice Commander Michael Murray and Hank Hanson review handouts just prior to the business meeting.

Minutes:

1. Upon motion duly made by Malcom Kenney, and seconded by Barry Kray, it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes of the Post meeting held on 11/20/23.

Quartermaster's Report:

1. Quartermaster Marc Scheele gave his Financial Report for the month ending 11/30/23. Upon motion duly made by Mike Murray, and seconded by Malcolm Kenney, it was unanimously voted to accept the Quartermaster's financial report, subject to audit.
2. Marc additionally gave an investment report. For details contact him.
3. Recommendation on how to spend surplus funds was brought up by Marc.

Service Officer's Report:

1. Numerous members are experiencing medical issues. For more detailed information and how you can help contact Service Officer Paul Lapierre.
 - a. Bill Weners is feeling better right now.
 - b. Thomas Joyce is having some issues.
 - c. Stan Sheldon is not doing well.
2. A discussion was had on our fruit baskets and delivery. We have approximately 10 fruit baskets scheduled for delivery so far and help will be needed for this. It was brought up to contact members before dropping off the baskets to see if they wanted them or not. A suggestion of cookies instead of baskets was also brought up.

New Members Report:

1. Shelley Landry was formally introduced to the Post as a new member. She was put on the spot when the microphone was thrust her way and she was asked to say something about herself.

Membership Committee Report:

1. Upon motion duly made by Brent Roets and seconded by Bruce Brown, both Membership Committee Members, it was unanimously voted by the Membership Committee consisting of Roger Guphill, Mike Murray, Barry Kray, Bruce Brown, Brent Roets, and Paul Lapierre to recommend to the Post the acceptance of Steven Dix as a new member.





2. Upon a motion duly made, by Brent Roets and seconded by Bruce Brown, it was unanimously voted to accept to the Post new member **Steven Dix**. Steven is pictured listening to the proceedings.

Post Legislative Business:

1. The Post presented Mainely Local Yolks (Liz and Justin) with a card and contribution.



Justin and Elizabeth Canton acknowledge the gift presented by Jeff Chase

Correspondence:

1. We received a thank you from the Maine Veteran's Home – Scarborough for our donation.
2. Discussion was had on visiting the Maine Veteran's Home this holiday season.

Old Business:

1. Malcolm Kenney reported that our Post had no Voice of Democracy, Patriot Pen, or Teacher of the Year Applications this year. More help is needed spreading the word among the schools in our area. A discussion was had on ways to get more students involved, possibly by recruiting from youth groups along with schools.

New Business:

1. We had one additional \$500.00 Post Scholarship that was given out.
2. Post member Frank Puopolo (pictured) brought to our attention that there is a Veteran in South Berwick that will soon be homeless and needs help moving to VA Transitional Housing in Rochester, NH.

- a. Upon a motion duly made by Quartermaster Marc Scheele, and seconded by Barry Kray, it was unanimously voted to provide up but not to exceed \$500.00 for the emergent moving of Veteran L.C. (Initials used to protect privacy) to the Transitional Housing in Rochester.



3. A discussion was had on a request to award a larger than normal scholarship to veteran Sam Michaud who currently works with Post Member Bryan English at the Somersworth VA Medical Center. Sam is going to school to become an RN and works part time at the medical center. American Legion Post 79 has already contributed and

has informed us of his need. Roger Guptill met with Sam and has verified the information. (Pictured is Roger in discussion.)

- a. Upon a motion duly made by Mike St. Pierre, and seconded by Ed Hagan, it was unanimously voted to table this discussion until the January meeting.

Good of the Order:

1. Reminder to get your 2 dose shingle vaccines.
2. Reminder to get your flu shots.
3. Reminder to get you Covid booster shots.

Next Post Meeting:

1. Our next meeting will be on 1/08/24 at 1730 at Mainely Local Yolks.

Dates to Remember:

1. Post Honor Guard Practices are the first Monday of the month at 1830. The Post Honor Guard needs members. Contact Dennis Ouellette to join.

Closing Prayer:

1909: Closing Prayer by Chaplain Pastor Bruce Brown.

Vote to Adjourn:

1910: Upon motion duly made by Commander Jeff Chase and seconded by Adjutant Brent Roets, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.

February 3, 2024: Members of VFW – Post 5744 attended a Boy Scouts of America (BSA) – Court of Honor at Spring Hill in South Berwick, where Ms. Kaylin Grogg of South Berwick was honored for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. Ms. Grogg became South Berwick BSA Troup # 338's first female Eagle Scout – she is also York County's first female Eagle Scout. VFW – Post 5744 presented Ms. Grogg with a Certificate of Recognition and a cash award.



Colors were posted by the BSA Troup #338 Color Guard.

Ms. Grogg shows off her Eagle Scout Certificate.



Malcolm Kenney addresses the gathering noting the important service BSA provides to the community.

Mal Kenney, Commander Jeffrey Chase, and Quartermaster Marc Scheele presented Ms. Grogg with a recognition gift.



Photos by Mike St Pierre, Historian

February 12, 2024: VFW – Post 5744 mustered at Mainely Local Yokes for a regular meeting.



Minutes of Regular Meeting on 2-12-24

Note: The January meeting was cancelled due to numerous Post member illnesses.

21 Members Present, 1 Guest (Sam Michaud)

Commander – Jeffrey Chase

Senior Vice Commander – Barry Kray

Junior Vice Commander – Michael Murray

Post Quartermaster – Marc Scheele

Adjutant -Brent Roets

Chaplain – Bruce Brown

Service Officer – Paul Lapierre

Historian – Michael St. Pierre

Opening:

1743: Post Meeting called to order by Commander, Jeffrey Chase as per VFW Ritual.

- We Rose for Pledge of Allegiance.

1745: Opening Prayer by Post Chaplain, Pastor Bruce Brown.

1820: Resumed business meeting.

1823: Presentation of Post Scholarship to Sam Michaud.



Capt. Katherine Surman and Robert Morrison stopped by from another post – they indicated a desire to transfer to Post 5744.

Minutes:

1. Upon motion duly made by Malcom Kenney, and seconded by Hank Hansen, it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes of the Post meeting held on 12/11/23.

Quartermaster's Report:

1. Quartermaster Marc Scheele gave his Financial Report for the months ending 12/31/23 and 1/31/24. Upon motion duly made by Bryan English, and seconded by Barry Kray, it was unanimously voted to accept the Quartermaster's financial report, subject to audit.
2. Marc also gave an investment report. For details contact him.

Service Officer's Report:

1. Service Officer Paul Lapierre noted that numerous members are experiencing medical issues. For more detailed information and how you can help, contact Paul.
 - a. Bill Weners is feeling better right now.
 - b. Thomas Joyce is having some issues.
 - c. Stan Sheldon is not doing well.
 - d. Robert "Gabby" Place is feeling better.
 - e. Rita Cincotta hurt her ankle.
 - f. Tony Cincotta is having some issues.
2. There will be a get together on January 22 at North Berwick Town Pizza from 1200-1400 to visit with Glenn Johnson.

New Members Report:

1. It was reported that we have one application in progress.

Membership Committee Report:

1. Nothing to report at this time.

Legislative Business:

1. Nothing to report at this time.

Correspondence:



Jeff Chase:

1. We received a thank you from the following organizations for our donations or participation.
 - a. The state Quartermaster for our donation.
 - b. Meet the Challenge.
 - c. Rollinsford Police Benevolent Association.
 - d. Town of North Berwick

Old Business:

1. A post ball cap was presented to new Post Member Steve Dix.
2. The post was informed that a donation was made to Sarah Fowler for her house that burnt down across the street from Knights Pond.

New Business:

1. Discussion was had concerning upcoming Officer elections. Any current Officer who does not wish to run should contact Commander Jeff Chase or Brent Roets.
2. A discussion was had by Commander Jeff Chase on the importance of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors (EXBOD).
3. Discussion was had on purchasing new Post Honor Guard Jackets so that all members of the combined Honor Guard (VFW – Post 5744 and AL – Post 79) have matching jackets. Pictured is Dennis Ouellette with the Honor Guard.





4. A discussion was had on having a Post Social Event on March 23 at the South Berwick Community Center. Brent Roets brought up this idea.

a. Upon a motion duly made by Adjutant Brent Roets, and seconded by Hank Hansen, it was unanimously voted to hold a Post Social event on March 23 at the South Berwick Community Center and that expenses would be authorized.

5. A discussion led by Quartermaster Marc Scheele involved starting

a program where we would visit Post members over 80 years old.

a. Upon a motion duly made Marc, and seconded by Bryan English, it was unanimously voted to start a program for visiting Post members. Visitation cards for members over 80 years old will be available to those who are able to visit.



6. Discussion was held concerning fund raising. There is talk of a traffic light possibly being installed in South Berwick that would affect our Poopy Drive location.
7. Discussion was held concerning the recent spate of emails being sent out requesting veterans to verify their status and tell stories of their service.
8. Discussion was held on the participation and possible contribution for recently deceased Dover Marine Captain Jack Thomas Casey who tragically died in a helicopter accident.
9. The post presented Afghanistan Combat Veteran Sam Michaud with a \$2000 Educational Assistance Scholarship Certificate. This scholarship, made possible through an anonymous donor's company, will help Sam in his pursuit of a Registered Nurse (RN) Certificate at York County Community College (YCCC). Sam currently works part time for the VA Health System in Somersworth, NH, and intends to continue doing so.



Marc Scheele, Sam Michaud, Jeffrey Chase

Good of the Order:

1. Reminder to get your 2 dose shingle vaccines.
2. Reminder to get your flu shots.
3. Reminder to get you Covid booster shots.

Next Post Meeting:

1. **Our next meeting will be on 3/11/24 at 1730 at Mainely Local Yolks.**

Dates to Remember:

1. Post Honor Guard Practices are the first Monday of the month at 1830. The Post Honor Guard needs members. Contact Dennis Ouellette to join.

Closing Prayer:

1907: Closing Prayer by Post Chaplain, Pastor Bruce Brown.

Vote to Adjourn:

1908: Upon motion duly made, by Post Commander Jeff Chase and seconded, by Post Adjutant Brent Roets, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.

Post 50/50 Drawing Winner: Steve Dix

Free Meal Drawing Winner: Bob Morrison.

Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

March 11, 2024: VFW – Post 5744 mustered at Mainely Local Yokes for a regular meeting.



Minutes of Regular Meeting on 3-11-24

19 Members Present

Commander – Jeffrey Chase

Senior Vice Commander – Barry Kray*

Junior Vice Commander – Michael Murray

Post Quartermaster – Marc Scheele

*Senior Vice Commander, Barry Kray, was absent (excused).

Adjutant -Brent Roets

Chaplain – Bruce Brown

Service Officer – Paul Lapierre

Historian – Michael St. Pierre

Opening:

1739: Meeting called to order by Commander, Jeff Chase, as per VFW Ritual.

- We Rose for Pledge of Allegiance.

1740: Opening Prayer by Chaplain, Pastor Bruce Brown.

1815: Resumed business meeting.

Minutes:

1. Upon motion duly made by Malcom Kenney, and seconded by Steve Shea, it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes of the Post meeting held on 2/12/24.

Quartermaster's Report:



1. Quartermaster Marc Scheele gave his Financial Report for the month ending 2/29/24. Upon motion duly made by Hank Hansen, and seconded by Ed Hagan, it was unanimously voted to accept the

- Quartermaster's financial report, subject to audit.
2. Marc then gave an investment report. For details contact him.

Service Officer's Report:

1. Service Officer Paul Lapierre indicated the following members as experiencing medical issues – for more detailed information and how you can help, contact Paul.
 - a. Bill Wenners is feeling better right now.
 - b. Thomas Joyce is having some issues.
 - c. Stan Sheldon is not doing well.
 - d. Robert “Gabby” Place is feeling better.
 - e. Rita Cincotta hurt her ankle.
 - f. Tony Cincotta is having some issues.
2. It was reported that the service for Captain Jack Casey went well.

New Members Report:

1. It was reported that we have one application in progress.

Membership Committee Report:

1. It was reported we have three prospective members.
 - a. Upon motion duly made by Bruce Brown, and seconded by Mike Murray, it was unanimously voted by the Membership Committee, consisting of Roger Guptill, Mike Murray, Brent Roets, Bruce Brown, Steve Shea, and Paul Lapierre, to recommend to the Post the acceptance of Kate Surman as a transfer member.
 - b. Upon motion duly made by Marc Scheele, and seconded by Malcolm Kenney, it was unanimously voted to accept to the Post new transfer member **Kate Surman**.
 - c. Upon motion duly made by Mike Murray, and seconded by Bruce Brown, it was unanimously voted by the Membership Committee, consisting of Roger Guptill, Mike Murray, Brent Roets, Bruce Brown, Steve Shea, and Paul Lapierre, to recommend to the Post the acceptance of Bob Morrison as a transfer member.
 - d. Upon motion duly made by Marc Scheele, and seconded by Malcom Kenney, it was unanimously voted to accept to the Post new transfer member **Bob Morrison**.



New Transfer Members Kate Surman and Bob Morrison

- e. Upon motion duly made by Mike Murray, and seconded by Paul Lapierre, it was unanimously voted by the Membership Committee, consisting of Roger Guptill, Mike Murray, Brent Roets, Steve Shea, and Paul Lapierre, to recommend to the Post the acceptance of Eugene Cheney as a new member.
- f. Upon motion duly made by Steve Shea, and seconded by Marc Scheele, it was unanimously voted to accept to the Post new Annual Member **Eugene Cheney**. (Photo not available)

Legislative Business:



Mal Kenney discusses the Star Act

- 1. Discussion was held on the Star Act.
- 2. Discussion was held concerning the postcards being received for the collection of stories and contact information for a book being produced by a third party for the Maine VFW as a fundraiser.

Correspondence:

1. We received a thank you from the following organizations for our donations or participation.
 - a. Somersworth Community Food Pantry

Old Business:

1. A Post Ball Cap was presented to new Post Member Kate Surman.
2. Discussion and information on the Post social to be held at the South Berwick Community Center on 3/23/24 starting at 1600. (The social had been postponed due to weather.)
3. Discussion was held concerning the selling of water at the Annual South Berwick Strawberry Festival.

New Business:

1. Upon a motion duly made by Malcom Kenney, and seconded by Hank Hansen, it was unanimously voted to elect the following personnel as our Post Delegates and alternates for the 2024 VFW Department of Maine – District 11, VFW Convention (effective as of 4/8/24):
 - a. Primary
 - i. Jeffrey Chase, Post Commander
 - ii. Barry Kray, Post Senior Vice Commander
 - iii. Michael Murray, Post Junior Vice Commander
 - iv. Roger Gupitill, Post Service Member
 - v. Malcolm Kenney, Post Judge Advocate
 - b. Alternates
 - i. William Wengers, Post Service Member
 - ii. Paul Lapierre, Post Service Officer
 - iii. Dennis Ouellette, Post Service Member
 - iv. Robert Place, Post Service Member
 - v. John Elwell, Post Service Member
2. Upon a motion duly made by Malcom Kenney, and seconded by Hank Hansen, it was unanimously voted to elect the following personnel as our Post Delegates and alternates for the 2024 VFW Department Maine – State Convention (effective as of 4/8/24):
 - a. Primary
 - i. Jeffrey Chase, Post Commander
 - ii. Barry Kray, Post Senior Vice Commander

- iii. Michael Murray, Post Junior Vice Commander
- iv. Roger Guphill, Post Service Member
- v. Malcolm Kenney, Post Judge Advocate
- b. Alternates
 - i. William Wengers, Post Service Member
 - ii. Paul Lapierre, Post Service Officer
 - iii. Dennis Ouellette, Post Service Member
 - iv. Robert Place, Post Service Member
 - v. John Elwell, Post Service Member
- 3. Upon a motion duly made by Malcolm Kenney, and seconded by Hank Hansen, it was unanimously voted to elect and pay the fee for Post Commander Jeffrey Chase to be our Post Delegate for the 2024 VFW National Convention.
- 4. Upon a motion duly made by Malcolm Kenney, and seconded by Roger Guphill, it was unanimously voted to make a donation to Justin McCarthy, a Mainely Local Yolks employee who recently lost part of his hand in an accident.
- 5. The Annual Post Budget Committee is set for March 21 from 1000-1200. The Post Membership Committee meeting is set for March 27 from 1000-1200. Contact Roger Guphill for further information.
- 6. On Monday, 4/29/24, from 0900-1500 we will be working with Liberty Mutual volunteers to clean up the Old Fields Burial Ground. Contact Post Commander, Jeff Chase, for further information.
- 7. We will be opening nominations for Post Officers tonight, 3/11/24, and they will remain open until 4/8/24, at which time we will elect the Post Officers. Nominations and potential appointments are as follows:



Note: Adjutant Brent Roets Chairs the Nominations Committee.

VFW Post 5744 2024 Election Tracker		
Postion	Current Holder	Nominees
Post Commander	Jeff Chase	Jeff Chase
Senior Vice Commander	Barry Kray	Barry Kray
Junior Vice Commandr	Mike Murray	Mike Murray
Trustee (1 year)	Roger Guptill	Malcolm Kenney
Trustee (2 year)	Malcolm Kenney	Roger Guptill
Trustee (3 year)	Jim Currier	Steve Shea
		Jim Currier
Post Quartermaster	Marc Scheele	Marc Scheele
Post Adjutant	Brent Roets	Brent Roets
Post Chaplain	Bruce Brown	Bruce Brown
Post Service Officer	Paul Lapierre	(CO) Shelley Landry/(CO) Daniel Kenney
Post Historian	Michael St. Pierre	Michael St. Pierre
Judge Advocate	Malcolm Kenney	Malcolm Kenney
Post Surgeon	Roger Guptill	Roger Guptill
Public Relations Officer	Vacant	

Good of the Order:

1. Reminder to get your 2 dose shingle vaccines.
2. Reminder to get your flu shots.
3. Reminder to get you Covid booster shots.

Next Post Meeting:

1. Our next meeting will be on 4/8/24 at 1730 at Mainely Local Yolks.

Dates to Remember:

1. Post Honor Guard Practices are the first Monday of the month at 1830. The Post Honor Guard needs members. Contact Dennis Ouellette to join.

Closing Prayer:

1915: Closing Prayer by Post Chaplain, Pastor Bruce Brown.

Vote to Adjourn:

1917: Upon motion duly made by Post Commander Jeff Chase and seconded by Post Adjutant Brent Roets, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.

Post 50/50 Drawing Winner: Daniel Kenney

Free Meal Drawing Winner: Mike Murray



Daniel Kenney, 50/50 Winner



Paul Lapierre, Shelly Landry, Mike Murray



Hank Hansen, Steve Shea, Ed Hagen

March 29, 2024: Members of VFW – Post 5744 joined American Legion’s Charles S. Hatch Post (AL – Post 97) at the Berwick Town Hall to commemorate National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Hosted by the American Legion, 1st Vice Commander Paul Amatucci was Master of Ceremonies, AL – District 1 Service Officer Lennie Randall read names from the list of those lost from the State of Maine, and the combined AL / VFW Honor Guard provided honors.

POW/MIA Empty Chair: Paul Amatucci began by explaining to those present that a designated POW/MIA Empty Chair is provided as a physical symbol of the thousands of American POWs and MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving the United States. It was indicated during the ceremony that eleven Maine servicemen remain missing in action from the Vietnam War.



Scott Bickford, Danial Dix, Steve Dix, and Frank Puopolo make up the Honor Guard contingent that posted the Colors at the beginning of the ceremony. Honor Guard members Stanley Shelton and Forest Davis are seen at attention.

After posting the Colors, veterans provided a hand salute and then all present delivered their Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Paul Lapierre then gave an invocation.





Paul Amatucci provided a reflective briefing on the war itself, the number who served, the number of lives lost, the war's unpopularity with many US citizens, and how Vietnam War Veterans were regarded when they returned home. The way these military and veterans were treated resulted in passage of the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017, which established March 29th

as National Vietnam War Veterans Day. He noted that the American Legion and other veteran organizations have remarkable outreach programs to help veterans.

Lennie Randall noted that more than 58,200 US military personnel died in this war: with 343 being from Maine. He indicated a belief that those who lost their lives in this war need not be lost forever if we continue saying their names. He provided perceptive readings of 44 Mainer names, tying many to their communities and the impact these losses might have had on their families and communities.



AL Post Commander Brian English and VFW Post Commander Jeff Chase observe the ceremony along with an assembly of veterans and civilians.



Honor Guards members Dennis Ouellette, Michael Murray, Steven Dix, Scott Bickford, Daniel Dix, Forest Davis and John Elwell provided a three-volley salute just outside the Town Hall front steps.

Honor Guard bugler Frank Puopolo played taps in the town hall's foyer. Playing there enabled a distant sound to those seated in the auditorium. Honor Guard member Stanley Shelton is noted at attention during the playing of taps.



The Honor Guard was then called upon to retire the colors. The Master of Ceremonies offered closing comments, thanked all in attendance, and declared the ceremony concluded.

Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

April 8, 2024: VFW – Post 5744 mustered at Mainely Local Yokes for a regular meeting.



Notes of a Regular Meeting on 4-8-24

Notes by Mike St. Pierre, Historian; minutes from this meeting to be approved at the September 2024 Regular Meeting.

Commander – Jeffrey Chase
Senior Vice Commander – Barry Kray
Junior Vice Commander – Michael Murray
Post Quartermaster – Marc Scheele

Adjutant -Brent Roets
Chaplain – Bruce Brown
Service Officer – Paul Lapierre
Historian – Michael St. Pierre



John Elwell sold 50/50 tickets prior to the start of the meeting.

Opening:

- Meeting called to order.
- Pledge of Allegiance.
- Opening prayer by Pastor Bruce Brown.

Minutes:

1. Minutes from the Post Meeting of 03-11-24 were approved.

Quartermaster's Report:

1. Quartermaster Marc Scheele's *Financial Report* for the month ending 03-31-24 was approved, subject to audit.
2. Marc also gave an investment report – see Marc for details.

Service Officer's Report:

3. Service Officer Paul Lapierre provided information on ailing and troubled members.
4. All exclaimed how nice it was to see Gabby Place (pictured right) at this month's meeting.



New Members Report:

1. Refer to the Meeting Minutes.

Post Membership Committee Report:

1. Refer to the Meeting Minutes.

John Elwell, Hank Hansen, Barry Kray,
John Denning, Roger Guptil



Legislative Business:

1. Mal Kenney spoke about the importance that members to write their legislators regarding issues important to veterans.

Mal Kenney, Mike Murray, Paul
Lapierre, Robert Place, Shelly Landry.



Old Business:

1. Brent Roets spoke about the Post Social to be held at the South Berwick Community Center on 5/11/24 starting at 1600. He encouraged all to sign up and consider bringing potential new members along.
2. Jeff Chase spoke about the Old Fields Burying Grounds "clean-up project" to be held on 4/29/24 from 0900-1500. He encouraged members to sign up.



Bruce Brown, Daniel Kenney, Brent Roets

New Business:

1. Nominations for the Post's Elected and Appointed Officers for the 7-1-24 through 6-30-25 Fiscal Year were closed out. These included:

Elected Position	Nominees
Commander	Jeffrey Chase
Senior Vice Commander	Barry Kray
Junior Vice Commander	Michael Murray
Quartermaster	Marc Scheele
Chaplain	Bruse Brown
Trustee (1 year)	Malcolm Kenney
Trustee (2 year)	Roger Guptil
Trustee (3 year)	Steve Shea
Trustee (Alternate)	Jim Currier
Appointed Position	
Adjutant	Brent Roets
Service Officer	Shelley Landry/Daniel Kenney
Historian	Michael St. Pierre
Judge Advocate	Malcolm Kenney
Surgeon	Roger Guptil
Public Relations Officer	Michael St. Pierre

2. The entire slate of Officers was voted in (elected).
3. Officer installations will be at the Post Social on 5/11/24.



New Post
Service Officers:
Shelly Landry &
Daniel Kenney



Other Business:

1. Refer to Meeting Minutes.

Good of the Order:

1. Refer to Meeting Minutes.

Next Post Meeting:

1. **Our next regular meeting will be on 5/13/24 at 1730 at Mainely Local Yolks.**

Dates to Remember:

1. 5/18/24 – placing flags on veteran's graves, muster at 0900 at Woodlawn Cemetery.
2. 5/27/24 – South Berwick Memorial Day Parade and Ceremonies, muster at 0900 at Central School.
3. 6/29/24 – South Berwick Strawberry Festival, water sales times per sign-ups.
4. 8/17/24 – VFW Barbeque at Mal Kenney's home, time to be announced.

Closing Prayer:

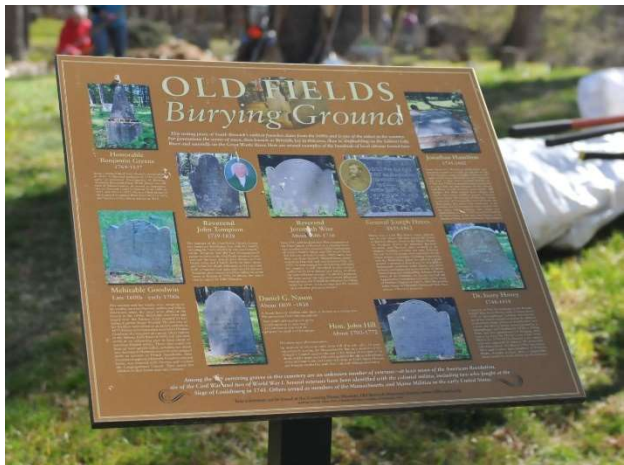
1. A closing prayer was provided by Chaplain Bruce Brown

Vote to Adjourn:

1. Upon a motion by Commander Chase, a vote to adjourn was carried.

April 29, 2024: Organized by VFW – Post 5744, members gathered with Liberty Torchbearers and neighborhood volunteers to clean the Old Fields Burying Grounds, located on Vine Street in South Berwick. This project, supported by the Town of South Berwick, included the removal of downed trees, limbs and accumulations of leaves, pine needles, and pinecones to enable the town's cemetery department to provide lawn maintenance.

Overlooking Leigh's Mill Pond, Old Fields Burying Ground is one of the oldest cemeteries in the United States, dating from the 1600s. It was the main burial place of the town's first European settlers – families such as those of Thomas Spencer (c. 1596-1681), William Chadbourne (1562-1682), and Humphrey Chadbourne (1615-1667).



Hundreds of citizens are buried in Old Fields Burying Ground, many in graves no longer visible or where only fragments of headstones remain. Earliest markers may have been plain fieldstones.

Among some 339 identified surviving graves in the

cemetery are an unknown number of former soldiers' graves from the 1700s to the 1900s. Of the identified veterans, seven are of the American Revolution, six of the Civil War, two of World War I. Several others have been tied to the colonial militia, including two who fought at the Siege of Louisburg in 1745, and others who served as members of the Massachusetts and Maine Militias.⁽¹⁾



Commander Jeff Chase hauled in his front-end loader (tractor), which proved invaluable for hauling out logs, branches, tangles of vines, and large bags of leaves, pine needles and pinecones.

Dawn Chase provided expert control of the tractor, maneuvering around the multitude of stone projections throughout the cemetery.



A four-wheeler with attached trailer provided for easier transport of gathered materials from the cemetery; these were piled near the access road, where they would later be picked up by town employees.

Overall, it was a great day to be outdoors, doing a good thing for the community.



VFWs Dan Kenney





Facing: VFW's John Ford and Jeff Chase



VFW's Marc Scheele



VFW's Mike Murray



VFW's Mike St. Pierre

Here is what we left for the Town of South Berwick to pick up; the town reportedly completed this the very next day!



Jumble of Tangled Vines



Lots of Leaves, Pine Needles, Pinecones, Branches and Sections of logs

Liberty Torchbearers⁽²⁾: Each year, thousands of Liberty Mutual employees give, volunteer, and serve in support of the causes they care about, with “Serve with Liberty” being Liberty’s annual days of service. The group participating in this project desired to work with a veteran’s organization.



Brian Poirier



Calvin Butler



Scott Cannon



Kristen McKenney



Lisa LaChance



Kris Burgess



John Holloway



Caroline Morrison

VFW – Post 5744, the Town of South Berwick, and the Berwick Historical Society sincerely appreciated this Serve with Liberty team’s unwavering support of this cemetery’s cleanup. Your team provided forty-man hours of generous community service to help preserve this 2.5-acre burial ground.

Neighborhood Volunteers:



Bill Straub, Rick Tindermann (not pictured), and Mary Jo Wentworth. (Mary Jo lives in Methuen, MA; she heard about the cleanup from the Old Berwick Historical Society – she came to clean up the grave sites of her ancestors.



Work Group – left to right: Mary Jo Wentworth, Mike Murray, Lisa LaChance, Cariline Morrison, Kris Burgess, John Halloway, Dawn Chase, Jeff Chase, Scott Cannon, Calvin Butler, Marc Scheele, John Ford, Bill Straub, Brian Poirier. Missing were Dan Kenney, Kristen McKenney, Colin Robb, Christopher Proulx, and Rick Tindermann. Photo by Mike St. Pierre, Post Historian

(1) Information from the Old Berwick Historical Society

(2) Information from Liberty Mutual's website.

Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

May 13, 2024: VFW – Post 5744 members, family, and friends gathered at The South Berwick Community Center for a potluck social. The gathering included the presentation of year-end awards, installation of the Post’s 2024-2025 Officers and Appointees, games with prizes, and abundant camaraderie.

Post Adjutant – Brent Roets did an amazing job coordinating and managing this event that was initially intended as a winter social but got postponed due to inclement weather. He had plenty of assistance with set-up, food contributions, and running the evening-ending games. We ultimately had thirty-two people in attendance.



Debbie Gerrett made patriotic balloon decorations for the gathering. Pastor Bruce Brown watches to see how balloon decorations are made.



Mason Roets assisted Debbie with the balloons.



Barry Kray, Brent Roets and Mel Kenney set up the serving line with the help of many others.





Marc Scheele set up a 50/50 ticket operation as a Post fundraiser.

Opening comments were by Commander Jeff Chase.



Paster Bruce Brown led us in a short prayer prior to the meal.



The serving line had lots to choose from;

American Chop Suey, cheese-stuffed Italian meats, hand carved meats, home-made baked beans, salad...



And the desert table loaded with cake, brownies, cookies, and a basket full of those wonderful Lindt white-chocolate truffles (t h a n k y o u Shelley)!

Other attendees not identified elsewhere!



Paul and Diana Lapierre



John and Judy Elwell



Steve and Maria Shea



Zelda Kenney



Ed and Janet Hagan



Joe Clavette

(As you read on, you might get a sense that our members appear to have an affinity for women whose names begin with the letter “J”!)



June and Roger Guptil



Mike and Julie Murray



Debbie Zagroski, Sally Ann Kenney



Audrey Vaillancourt



Eric and Liberty Roets



Mike and Joyce St. Pierre



Shelley and Colin Landry



Dan Kenney

Presentation of Awards:



Following the meal, Commander Jeff Chase made several presentations. He first handed out milestone anniversary pins, as follows:

- 1 Year Pin: Shelley Landry
- 5 Year Pins: Brent Roets, Marc Scheele, Mike St. Pierre, Barry Kray, Joe Clavette
- 15 Year Pin: Bruce Brown, John Elwell, Roger Guptil, Steve Shea
- 20 Year Pin: Dan Kenney, Paul Lapierre
- 25 Year Pin: Ed Hagan
- 40 Year Pin: Mal Kenney



15 Year Pin to Bruce Brown



40 Year Pin to Mal Kenney



Commander Chase then presented a **Community Service Award** to Paul Lapierre. Commander Chase read to following to the honoree:

South Berwick VFW Memorial Post 5744 presents this Community Service Award to Paul Lapierre in recognition for years of selfless service as Post Service Officer, which included providing transportation to Manchester VA for medical appointments of numerous members. Paul also planned and supervised Spaghetti Suppers for many years at the Community Center. He contacted members who were ill and sent cards and fruit baskets. Lastly, he notified and coordinated funeral services for fallen Post members ensuring they received the proper recognition for their service and ensured their surviving spouses and family were not forgotten.



Commander Chase also presented a **Community Service Award** to Mike Murray. Commander Chase read to following to the honoree:

South Berwick VFW Memorial Post 5744 presents this Community Service Award to Michael P. Murray in recognition of his years of selfless dedicated service to our Post. His duties over the last seven years included holding the Officer positions of Senior and Junior Vice Commander, as well as the Executive Board, Budget, and Membership committees. He was an original member of the Honor Guard participating in over forty Veteran services a year over the same period. In addition, Mike has always attended all work parties and fundraisers, including two Vine St Cemetery workdays as well as the annual Strawberry Festival and Poppy Toll Booth fundraisers. Also, on numerous occasions he provided his trailer for transport for water pickup for the annual Strawberry Festival fundraiser as well as delivery of water for our Troops at the Pease Greeters. His expertise in metal fabrication and welding for twenty-five Fisher plow, skid steer, and tractor units, was instrumental in obtaining a gross income of 25,000 dollars for the Fisher Fundraising Project over a three-year period. This Fundraiser provided valuable income during the Covid 19 Pandemic and allowed the Post to make long term investments ensuring the financial viability of the Post for years to come. You are most heartily commended for your efforts and your hard work is greatly appreciated; you continue to set the standard for other Post members to follow.

Commander Chase also had a **Community Service Award** for Robert “Gabby” Place, who was not in attendance due to a medical issue. The following was indicated for this honoree:

South Berwick VFW Memorial Post 5744 presents this Community Service Award to Robert “Gabby” Place in recognition of years as our Post Historian, whereas he expertly spent countless hours photographing and documenting Post activities, including outstanding work on Post minutes and Newsletters. In addition, he fabricated hardware and wood posts for the Post tents which improved the safety of members during use for the Picnic and Post members private functions. Also, he fabricated the brawtmeister cooker for the Picnic and prepped and cooked the best Bratwurst for members and their families for many years to enjoy.



Installation of Officers:

The Post then held its annual ceremony for the swearing in and installation of its 2024-2025 Elected and Appointed Officers.



By the direction of Commander Chase, John Elwell read the Post Charter and key duties of office. He then administered the oath of office while all had their left hand on the shoulder of the person to their left and their right hand raised.



2024-2025 Post Officers: Bruce Brown, Chaplain; Barry Kray, Senior Vice Commander; Marc Scheele, Quartermaster; Brent Roets, Adjutant; Mike Murray, Junior Vice Commander; Mike St. Pierre, Historian / Public Relations Officer; Dan Kenney, Assistant Service Officer; Shelley Landry, Service Officer; Mal Kenney, Trustee / Judge Advocate; Steve Shea, Trustee; Roger Guptil, Trustee / Surgeon; Jeff Chase, Commander; John Elwell, Officiant.

Entertainment, Games and Prizes:

We concluded the event with several rounds of Bingo.



Eric and Brent Roets drew the Bingo balls and called the numbers.



The attendees played one card at a time; the winner won one of the many prizes offered, including an indoor garden, hummingbird feeder and syrup, Gift Cards to local eateries, games, and the like!

Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

PART C

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

VFW – MAINE DISTRICT 11

2023-2024 Officers:

DISTRICT 11

Commander *Michael A McInnis*
15 Vines RD, Saco, ME 04072-1733
Tel: 590-6058 * Post 7997
E-mail: qmvfw7997@yahoo.com

Sr. Vice Commander *Arthur Rocray*
188 Brook ST, Sanford, ME 04073-2507
Tel: 337-8637 * Post 9935
E-mail: N/A

Jr. Vice Commander *Allen Carter*
22 Fall Mill RD, York, ME 03909-5711
Tel: 363-3215 * Post 9394
Email: kty9394@hotmail.com

Quartermaster *James Bachelder*
PO Box 652, Sanford, ME 04073-0652
Tel: 432-7172 * Post 9935
E-mail: jamesbachelder@breezeline.net

Adjutant *Michael A. Mc Innis*
15 Vines Rd., Saco, ME 04072-1733
Tel: 590-6058 * Post 7997
E-mail: qmvfw7997@yahoo.com

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VFW – DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

2023-2024 Officers:

Commander: John Bouchard, Post 9389 (Caribou)

Senior Vice Commander: Anthony Kimble, Post 3108 (Belfast)

Junior Vice Commander: Amy Meuchel, Post 6859 (Portland)

Adjutant: Carl Lambert, Post 9 (West Gardiner)

Quartermaster: David Williams, Post 1641 (Rumford)

Judge Advocate: William Day, Post 7997 (Old Orchard Beach)

Surgeon: Roger Stevens, Post 2197 (Topsham)

Chaplain: Kevin Woodward, Post 11553 (Harrington)

Immediate Post Commander: Jennifer Lane, Post 1603 (Auburn)

Chief of Staff: Christopher Robison, Post 1761 (Bangor)

Inspector: Danforth Saucier, Post 9389 (Caribou)

Service Officer: Cornelius Ware, Post 887 (Augusta)

Assistant Service Officer: Jo Anne Maynard, Post 8835 (Winslow)

Assistant Quartermaster: Arthur Roy, Post 1603 (Auburn)

Assistant Adjutant: Steven SanPedro, Post 6859 (Portland)

Guard: Randolph Michaud, Post 2599 (Mapleton)

Historian: Amy Meuchel, Post 6859 (Portland)

Public Relations Officer: Jared Sawyer, Post 6859 (Portland)

Sergeant-at-Arms: Mark Reilly, Post 6859 (Portland)

Officer of the Day: Mark Reilly, Post 6859 (Portland)

Color Guard Captain: Arthur Rocray, Post 9935 (Sanford)

National Council Member: Steven SanPedro, Post 6859 (Portland)

VFW – National Officers

LEADING THE ORGANIZATION

At each national convention, chair officers are elected and other leaders are appointed for the forthcoming year. The chair officers are selected from various conferences, so each region has a turn at being represented in the ranks of the national leadership. VFW's leadership continues to reflect the changing demographics of veterans in general and VFW in particular. This year's chair officers include one Persian Gulf War veteran, one Vietnam War vet and the first woman to be elected junior vice commander-in-chief.

BY JANIE DYHOUSE

PHOTO BY BOB KNUDSEN



The 2023-24 "Meet the Challenge" team (from left): Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Alfred Lipphardt, Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento and Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Carol Whitmore.



Dan West
Adjutant General
Post 3413, San Marcos, Texas



Marc Garduno
Quartermaster General
Post 3238, Camden, Del.



Dave Frei
National Chaplain
Post 4902, Cottonwood, Idaho



J. Douglas Whitaker
Judge Advocate General
Post 9675, Bellevue, Neb.



Curtis O. Doc Bohlman
Surgeon General
Post 1335, Woodward, Okla.



Carey Pritchett
Chief of Staff
Post 5579, Gibbstown, N.J.



Peter Mascetti
Inspector General
Post 27, Germany

2023-24 National Council of Administration

The National Council of Administration also includes VFW national officers (see p. 30).



2023-24 National Committees

VFW's national committees develop and complete goals for the upcoming year. Only the chairmen and vice chairmen of the committees are listed at right.

Legislative

Chairman
Stanley W.
Borusiewicz Jr.

Vice Chairmen

Luddie H. Austin
Charles "Tony" Dobbins
Deborah K. Johnson
Bradley M. Whitmore

Programs

Chairman
William "Russ" Hall

In The News

The following pages contain facsimiles of new articles pertinent to VFW – Post 5744, VFW – Maine District 11, VFW – Department of Maine, and/or VFW – National.

Story which includes VFW – Post 5744's participation in the Marshwood Great Works School – Veteran's Day Assembly.

Seacoastonline

LOCAL

'It's heart': Veterans, active service members honored and show appreciation



Ian Lenahan

Portsmouth Herald

Published 5:23 a.m., ET Nov. 10, 2023 | Updated 5:23 a.m., ET Nov. 10, 2023

SOUTH BERWICK, Maine — Active and former service members young and old swapped U.S. military memories at the Great Works School on Thursday, a gathering held in honor of Veterans Day this week.

Past and present members representing each U.S. military branch were present for a student-driven remembrance.

Navy veteran Mike St. Pierre of Berwick recognized Petty Officer Second Class John Maier's title via a patch on the young sailor's uniform. Maier, a 27-year-old serving aboard the USS Texas, which is currently stationed at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, is an electronics technician nuclear, one of several submariners who control the USS Texas' nuclear reactor.

The technician, now in his third year of active service, listened intently to St. Pierre, a retired marine mechanic whose active duty services brought him to 13 Far East countries, including South Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

"You have to appreciate the people who came before you, because everything that they've done helps us do our jobs," Maier said.

Students of the Great Works School led a reading from "America's White Table" by Margot Theis Raven, read essays centered on remembering the sacrifices made by U.S. military veterans and sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "A Tribute to the Armed Services." The school annually holds a Veterans Day assembly, welcoming current and previous military members.

"This is our little way of saying, 'Thank you. Thank you for your dedication. Thank you for your sacrifice,'" school Principal Jerry Burnell said Thursday.

St. Pierre served on the USS Oklahoma City, a submarine named the flagship of the U.S. 7th Fleet, which today is the largest forward-deployed U.S. fleet, according to the Navy.

The Berwick resident looked back on his travels fondly.

"I did things a little bit differently. A lot of sailors when they hit port, they hit the bar scene right away, whereas I went on shore," St. Pierre said. "I would hire a rickshaw or a bicycle attendant, and I would have them bring me to local cultural centers, temples or parks, and I'd just talk to locals. It was a great duty. It was fun."

Veterans and active military members were spread throughout the auditorium, with some like William Rankin, a Navy veteran who sailed the North Atlantic during the Cold War, there to see his grandchildren.

Rankin, who was stationed in New London, Connecticut, on the USS Dace (SSN-607), hopes children today appreciate those who have served and those who currently serve.

"We've memorialized everything that we can, I think," Rankin said. "And we're still doing it."

How can kids learn the significance of military service beyond what's taught in schools?

"For me, it means showing our appreciation for people who served in the past and those who are serving now," said Navy Master-At-Arms Second Class Jason Ruiz.

Ruiz, also based at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, held a traditionally folded American flag on Thursday for flag ceremony duties.

"It's not just time we're giving," he said. "It's heart."

Retired Coast Guardsman Ben O'Brien, a machinery technician first class, served from 1996 to 2016. Father to one Great Works student and uncle to another, O'Brien said he was the last active duty guardsmen to serve as the lighthouse keeper for Boston Light on Little Brewster Island, the first lighthouse built in the American colonies in 1716. The lighthouse is now run by Sally Snowman, the last active official lighthouse keeper in the United States.

O'Brien, seated next to fellow former Coast Guardsman Jeremy Huston, wore his old uniform on Thursday.

"I think that brings it home for them. It's not just like, 'OK, Dad's a veteran.' It means I actually wore the uniform and did the work," he said.

Huston spent five years in the Coast Guard — two in Alaska and the rest doing search rescue work in Yaquina Bay in Oregon.

Since leaving his post in 2001, Huston has missed the camaraderie with fellow service members and the outreach to the public.

"It's wonderful that we still recognize veterans and that kids understand what we did," he said.

Maier called Thursday's ceremony an opportunity to connect with those who served before him.

"For me, it's very important because my life would not be the same had it not been for all the people who have been in the Navy before me," he said. "The lessons that they learned and the work that they put it in, it all comes down and it all gets passed onto us. Everything that we learned and everything that we teach has been passed down. It's so important to take that knowledge and move forward with it and build on it. It doesn't just keep myself safe, it keeps everyone safe as a team."

March 8, 2024

ews ~

Kaylin Grogg Named Eagle Scout



SOUTH BERWICK - South Berwick Memorial VFW Post 5744 recently presented a certificate of recognition and a cash award to Kaylin Grogg for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout with Boy Scouts of America Troup 338. Grogg was honored at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor held at the Spring Hill banquet facility in South Berwick. She is York County's first female Eagle Scout! Pictured are (left to right): Past Commander Malcolm Kenney, Post Quartermaster Mark Scheele, Kaylin Grogg, and Post Commander Jeffrey Chase. Photo by Post Historian Michael St. Pierre.

HAPPY
EASTER

The Weekly Sentinel

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Friday, March 29, 2024

Volume

The Weekly Sentinel 5

WS

VFW Post 5744 Presents Scholarship to Sam Michaud



SOUTH BERWICK -

South Berwick Memorial VFW Post 5744 recently presented Afghanistan Combat Veteran Sam Michaud with a \$2,000 Educational Assistance Scholarship Certificate, made possible through a generous anonymous donor's company, to assist Sam in his pursuit as a registered nurse at York County Community College.

The post meets at 5:30 p.m. on the second Monday each month, September through May, at Mainely Local Yolks, 43 Route 236, Berwick.

Pictured are (left to right) Post Quartermaster Marc Scheele, Sam Michaud, and Post Commander Jeffrey Chase. Photo by Post Historian Mike St. Pierre.

Taps

The following pages are to honor our American military Veterans who have gone on before us. While history may overlook many of the brave deeds of our gallant service men and service women, their memory will ever live in the hearts and minds of freedom loving people of the great nation of the United States of America.

September 7, 2023: Members of VFW – Post 5744 gathered at Johnson Funeral Home in North Berwick to honor deceased United States Navy Veteran Richard J. Normandin. This veteran was provided a Military service then interned at Southern Maine Veterans Cemetery in Springvale, Maine.

Obituary



Our beloved husband and father Richard J. Normandin of North Berwick, Maine passed away suddenly on Friday, August 25, 2023

Born to Rita M. Lefevre and Rudolph A. Normandin of Lowell, Massachusetts on April 24, 1953; and 1972 graduate of Chelmsford High School. Shortly after graduation, Richard entered the U.S. Navy serving on the U.S.S. Constellation during the Vietnam War as a recovery technician. He continued his service to our military as a ground support technician at Pease Airforce Base until 1985.

Championing his own educational path, Richard enrolled and graduated with an Associate Degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1992 from Southern Maine Technical College in South Portland, Maine. His leadership skills lead him to a teaching path where he shared his love of drafting and engineering as a student teacher for SMMTC.

For over 50 years, he challenged his curiosity for knowledge with a career path centered around technical innovation. He naturally navigated to any situation that required the use of his hands and expert problem-solving skills. His final career was at Portland Valve Company as a mechanical engineer using CAD to design and manufacture parts for naval submarines.

When work was done, he and the family would pack up the F350 Ford truck with his camping gear and head to Scraggly Lake with the dog in tow, in search of the perfect outdoor adventure.

You could see him in his trusty boat with his fishing pole on any given day at York Harbor, Kittery Point or trolling for stripers at midnight down the Piscataqua River. It is here on the water that he fell in love with a blue and green crustacean called the "Maine Lobster."

Lobster bakes made famous by his coined " perfect baked lobster with a side of crispy crab cakes" are still famous in the family today.

He was a family man, outdoorsman, teacher, father, husband and seaman. Most of all he was someone who you could count on the most to show up when the chips were down.

Thank you for making our family the center of your world. We will be forever grateful for the traditions you created and the memories you designed for our dreams of you. We will miss your laugh, your smile but most of all we will miss the stories we shared together. This is not goodbye, it's " gone fishing."

Richard is survived by his wife Suzanne Normandin; twin daughters, Vicki Normandin and Patricia Crawford; sister, Rosemary Normandin; brothers, Randy, Ronald and Rudolph Normandin.

Military Service will be held, Thursday, September 7 at 2pm in the Southern Maine Veterans Cemetery, 83 Stanley Road, Springvale, ME. A Celebration of life will follow at the North Berwick Community Center, 264 Lebanon Road, North Berwick, ME. Memorial Donations may be made to Another Chance Animal Shelter, P.O. Box 552, North Berwick, ME 03906.

October 18, 2023: Members of VFW – Post 5744 gathered at Tasker Funeral Home in Dover, New Hampshire to honor deceased United States Army Veteran Raymond F. Brunelle. The post Honor Guard provided military honors at this veteran's internment service at New Town Cemetery in Rollinsford, New Hampshire.

Obituary



Raymond F. Brunelle

October 13, 1933 - October 10, 2023

Raymond F. Brunelle of Rollinsford, New Hampshire passed away after a period of failing health on October 10, 2023.

Raymond was born in Somersworth, NH on October 13, 1933, to Doris (Chase) Brunelle and Arthur Brunelle. Raymond attended Somers and Rollinsford Grade School, graduating from Berwick Academy. Raymond left school to serve in the US Army in 1952, traveling between Japan and Korea one year before being seriously wounded on April 15, 1953, in the Korean War. Raymond worked at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. After retiring from the shipyard, he had his own business as an electrician. Raymond was a lifelong member of the American Legion and the VFW.

Raymond is predeceased by his wife Barbara Brunelle; daughter Linda Luigi; parents Doris and Arthur; brothers Arthur Brunelle, Ronald Brunelle, and Robert Brunelle; and stepbrothers Arthur Osborn and Charles Osborn Jr.

Raymond is survived by his daughter Deborah and husband David Melitus of Dover, NH; granddaughter Melissa and husband Chris Robinson, great grandson Zachery Lajoie, and many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to express a special thank you for the loving care and compassion Raymond received from the staff at Watson Fields, Dover, NH.

Services for Raymond will be held at Tasker Funeral Home. Visiting hours will be taking place on Wednesday, October 18 from 10:00a-12:00p, with a service at noon, and a burial to follow at New Town Cemetery.

February 23, 2024: Members of VFW – Post 5744 met at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Dover, New Hampshire to honor fallen United States Marine Corps Captain Jack Thomas Casey. VFW members present included Jeffrey Chasse, Malcolm Kenney, Roger Guphill, Mark Scheele, Joel Dennett, Michael St. Pierre, and possibly others.

Captain Jack Thomas Casey Obituary



Jack Thomas Casey, Captain in the US Marine Corps, died suddenly in a tragic accident, along with 4 other crew members, Feb 7, 2024, in Pine Valley, CA during a CH-53E helicopter training exercise. He is survived by his wife, Emma Lindberg of Shepherdstown, WV, his mother Catherine (Robinson) Casey of Dover NH, his Father James B Casey of Andover, ME, grandparents, Jean Robinson of Portsmouth NH, Janice Casey of Dover NH and James Casey of Hampton NH, siblings, James D Casey and Kristen Tavares, Dover NH, Patrick J Casey, Topsfield MA, Sean J Casey and Caitlin Parsons, Nantucket, MA, and Catherine E Casey and Bryan DiCredico, Berwick ME, beloved nephew of 15, favorite cousin of 23, amazing uncle to 6. Jack was predeceased by his grandfather, Richard G. Robinson, and his uncle and godfather Edward Robinson.

Jack was born April 19, 1997 in Dover NH. He attended St. Mary Academy and St. Thomas Aquinas High School (2015), where he played football and lacrosse, as well being a member of the Robotics team. He then decided he wanted to serve his country in any capacity. He attended college at Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, VA. During his time there, he served as company clerk and earned the position of Company Commander for India Company his senior year. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Physics in 2019.

He graduated from Officer Candidate school in 2018, earning a pilot's commission in the United States Marine Corps. He ran the Marine Corps full Marathon while training in Quantico. After training extensively, he earned his wings on 9/20/2022, and became a skilled CH-53 helicopter pilot. He was promoted to captain on 9/2/23.

He met the love of his life, Emma Lindberg, in January 2020, and they were married on 12/3/2022 in a beautiful beach ceremony in South Carolina.

Jack was an epic human being. He was bright, hilarious, and a light in this world from the moment he was born. He was the youngest of 5 and learned the precious skill of knowing when to take the high road. His personality was a remarkable combination of drive, ambition, and intelligence, tempered with an incredible sense of fun, humility, kindness, with the unending ability to make any room he was in a happier place. Jack would help you move, plant a garden, build a deck, or smoke a side of beef. He was never too busy to help...anyone.

He could eat Cheetos before Marine Corp fitness tests, running a sub 18 min 3 mile. In the Rumpass Bumpass Triathlon, most people were in racing bibs. Jack wore his beloved Red Sox cut off. Flannel shirts and Birkenstocks were his trademark.

As a leader, he would carry people's burden, and help them find a solution. When in doubt, flat out. Drama was not in his vocabulary, leading by example in a calm, convincing manner. He did the right thing whether or not someone was looking. He was a fiercely loyal husband, son, brother, and friend. Our universe has lost a precious, rare, amazing soul.

Honor him by living life to the fullest.

Be like Jack.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Jack Thomas Casey STEM scholarship fund Details will be on the www.purdyfuneralservice.com website under Jack Casey once available.

Visitation for Jack will be on Feb 23, 2024, from 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm at the St. Thomas Aquinas High School, 197 Dover Point Road, Dover, NH, 03820.

A Mass of Christian Burial on Feb. 24, 2024, at 10:00 am at St. Theresa Catholic Church, 820 Central Rd., Rye, NH 03871.

Funeral arrangements are under the care of Purdy Funeral Service, Dover, NH. To sign our online guestbook, please go to www.purdyfuneralservice.com

February 27, 2024: Members of VFW – Post 5744 gathered at Johnson Funeral Home in North Berwick, Maine to honor deceased United States Army Veteran Gerald Thomas Schulmaier. Members of the Quint-Cheney American Legion Post – Post 87 of North Berwick provided an American Legion Ceremony with Post Commander Don Beaupre serving as Master of Ceremonies and providing an expressive eulogy. VFW members present were Jeffrey Chase, Malcolm Kenney, Roger Guptill, Mark Scheele, Mike Murray, and Paul Lapierre.

Obituary

Provided by Johnson Funeral Home

Gerald Thomas Schulmaier

May 14, 1933 ~ February 20, 2024 (age 90)



Gerald Thomas Schulmaier - 90

Jerry was born at Wentworth Douglas Hospital to Henry Raymond Schulmaier SR & Alice Irene Schulmaier (Wentworth) on May 14, 1933– Died unexpectedly on February 20, 2024.

After graduating from North Berwick High School in 1952, he went on to enlist in the United States Army, serving in Germany for several years. After his service time, he returned to the family farm in North Berwick where he performed all daily chores and task around the farm; starting before the sun was up and ending after it had gone down, each and every day.

In 1986, the Backache Farm stopped milk production. After that, Jerry had several jobs. Delivering newspapers for Fosters Daily Democrat. Working at Hussey Seating in the Wood shop for several years. After retiring from Hussey Seating, he worked at the North Berwick Transfer Station, mostly handing out candy to kids and mild bones to the dogs.

Jerry was a member of the VFW & The Knights of Columbus and the American Legion Post 87 of North Berwick.

He is predeceased by his parents, Henry Schulmaier Sr & wife Alice Wentworth Schulmaier, his brother Henry Schulmaier, Jr. . He is survived by his sister Eleanor Paula Phinney (95), his niece Kate A. Phinney Lord, and nephew Jay Michael Phinney

Visiting hours will be held Monday, February 26 from 3pm to 6pm at the Johnson Funeral Home, 26 Market Street, North Berwick. A funeral service will be held Tuesday February 27 at 10 am at the Johnson Funeral Home with an American legion service. Spring interment in Evergreen Cemetery in Berwick, ME.

.In lieu of flowers the family requests that donation be made to ASPCA or your local shelter in Jerry's name.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to thank the following individuals for their support in this project:

- Commander Jeffrey Chase, for his patience in fielding endless questions from me.
- Malcolm Kenney, for his assistance in establishing the concept for this yearbook.
- Robert Place, for sharing his earlier works in these regards.
- Roger Guptil, for mentoring me regarding Post By-Laws, Procedures and Finances.
- All others who have responded to my inquiries for information.
- Others who have contributed photographic materials when I could not attend functions.
- The membership at large for allowing me to photograph you.
- My wife, Joyce, for enabling the time needed for this project.

VFW – Post 5744
South Berwick Memorial Post
South Berwick, Maine

Yearbook compiled by:
Post Historian
Michael R. St. Pierre
16 Keay Road
Berwick, ME 03901
(603) 534-8464
MichaelStPierre@Comcast.net



Photo by Joyce St. Pierre