



SOUTH BERWICK MEMORIAL POST 5744

**May 2024 – May 2025
Yearbook**



In 2024 the VFW entered its 125th year of service to America's veterans.

Yearbook of:

**South Berwick Memorial Post 5744
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
South Berwick, Maine**

For: May 2024 – May 2025

**By: Michael R. St. Pierre
Historian**

Table of Contents

PART A – INTRODUCTION

7	VFW – About Us / Who We Are
9	VFW Fact Sheet
11	South Berwick Memorial Post
13	Our Community – South Berwick
15	Veterans’ Ties to South Berwick
17	Elected Officers and Appointees
21	Committees
22	Where We Meet

PART B – POST ACTIVITIES

24	May 18, 2024 – Placing Flags on Veterans Graves
26	May 22, 2024 – 3 rd Grade Patriotic Concert at Central School
29	May 29, 2024 – Memorial Day Observance
33	June 26, 2024 – Funeral Service for Norman “Spike” Allard
35	June 29, 2024 – South Berwick Strawberry Festival
37	July 13, 2024 – Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Liam Brewster
39	July 13, 2024 – Concession Stand at Hot Summer Nights
41	Aug. 17, 2024 – Annual Summer Barbeque
45	Sept. 7, 2024 – Concession Stand at Mill Field Days
47	Sept. 7, 2024 – Recruiting Stand at Pumpkinman Triathlon
48	Sept. 9, 2024 – September Meeting
52	Oct. 1, 2024 – Funeral Service for Robert “Gabby” Place
56	Oct. 3, 2024 – Internment Service for Robert “Gabby” Place
57	Oct. 5, 2024 – Fall Festival at First Parish Federated Church
58	Oct. 15, 2024 – October Meeting
64	Oct. 24, 2024 – Recognition for Mainly Local Yokes
66	Nov. 1, 2024 – Veterans Celebration at MMS
70	Nov. 5, 2024 – Concession Stand at S.B. Voting Place
71	Nov. 7, 2024 – Veterans Celebration at MGWS
75	Nov. 9, 2024 – Toll Booth Fundraiser / Poppy Drive
78	Nov. 11, 2024 – Veterans Day Observance
82	Nov. 14, 2024 – November Meeting
86	Nov. 16, 2024 – Flag Retirement at Cemeteries
87	Nov. 19, 2024 – Internment Service for Bruce Burke

89	Nov. 20, 2024 – Internment Service for Edward Collard
90	Nov. 20, 2024 – Post receives <i>Spirit of America Tribute</i>
92	Nov. 30, 2024 – Concession Stand at <i>Home for the Holidays</i>
93	Dec. 7, 2024 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Observance
95	Dec. 10, 2024 – U.S.S. Washington Plaquing at PNSY
98	Dec. 12, 2024 – December Meeting
103	Dec. 29, 2024 – Scholarship Awards at AL Post 47
106	Jan. 9, 2025 – January Meeting
110	Jan. 18, 2025 – Department of Maine Meeting
113	Jan. 18, 2025 – Department VOD / PP / TY Awards Banquet
116	Jan. 23, 2025 – Meet & Greet for U.S.S. Washington
121	Feb. 25, 2025 – Breakfast Social at Mainely Local Yokes
122	Mar. 13, 2025 – March Meeting
128	Apr. 10, 2025 – April Meeting
134	Apr. 28, 2025 – Service Project: Cleanup of Vine Street Cemetery
139	May 1, 2025 – Celebrating Loyalty Day at Central School
144	May 8, 2025 – Spring Awards Banquet and Installation of Officers

PART C – SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

150	Officers – VFW National
151	Officers – VFW Department of Maine
154	Officers – VFW Maine District 1
155	In the News
161	Taps
167	Acknowledgements

PART A

INTRODUCTION

The VFW⁽¹⁾



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 unite 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 including its Auxiliary.

Our voice was instrumental in establishing the Veterans Administration (VA), development of the national cemetery system, in the fight for compensation for Vietnam veterans 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 center 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 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.

In 2025 we promoted passage of the Social Security Fairness Act which repealed the Social Security Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision. We also saw passage of the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act.

We have many programs and services that work to support veterans, service members, and their families, as well as communities worldwide. Our web site (www.VFW.org) details why “**No One Does More For Veterans**”.

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

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

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. In conjunction with American Legion “Charles S. Hatch” Post 79, Post 5744 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 National 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, assistance, 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 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. It participates in the VFW’s *Teacher-of-the-Year* program. Post members attend and participate in Veterans’ Day programs at local schools.

Post funds come from various sources, like sponsorships, fundraising suppers, concession booth sales, 50/50 fundraising, and a donations “tollbooth” on an in-town street at which Buddy Poppies are handed out.

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



South Berwick Memorial Post 5744

(Mustered February 26, 1946)

VFW Congressional Charter (Rev: December 4, 2014)

The purposes of this 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 southern Maine. The village center is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. South Berwick is a Purple Heart Town.



Aerial view of South Berwick where it adjoins the Salmon Falls River

South Berwick was first settled about 1631 as a trading post where the Salmon Falls River and Great Works River join. A sawmill and gristmill were built at Assabumbadoc Falls on the great Works River in 1634.

The Massachusetts General Court incorporated the area as Berwick in 1713. The town became home to Berwick Academy, a private, co-ed university-preparatory day school in 1791. South Berwick was set off from Berwick and incorporated in 1814.

Various other mills were erected along the Great Falls and Salmon Falls Rivers during the 19th century.

The Portsmouth Manufacturing Company was established in 1831 at Quampheagan Falls on the Salmon Falls River. The mill closed in 1893 and most of its buildings were razed around 1917. Only the Counting



House (pictured right) remains and is now home to the Old Berwick Historical Society Museum.



Photo of the abandoned Burleigh Woolen Mill (a.k.a. Rocky Gorge Woolen Mill) at Rocky Gorge on the great Works River near the Brattle Street bridge (just off Route 236). This mill dates

back to the 1850s and made woolen army blankets during World War II.

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 craft and vendor booths, food sales, games, and rides for children. VFW Post 5744 typically sells bottled water as a fundraiser at the festival.



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.



(2) Historical information from Wikipedia and Facebook.
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”

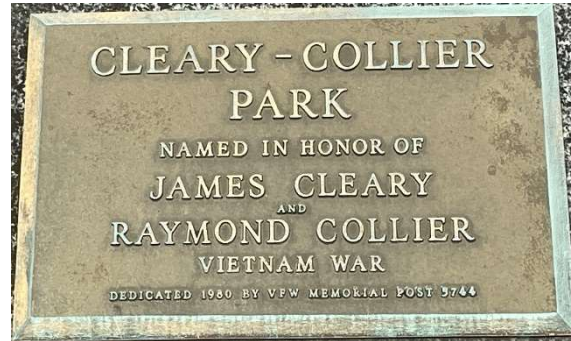
⁽³⁾ information and pictures from on-line sources.

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.

Close-up of
Cleary-
Collier Park
Placard.



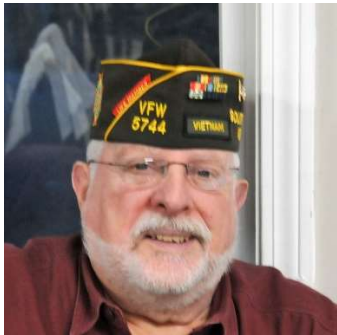
As noted above, VFW Post 5744 leads in observances of Memorial Day, Veterans' Day, Flag Day, Loyalty Day, and National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. It assures that suitable grave markers, wreaths, and flags of the United States are placed on the graves of deceased members. It provides services for the proper disposal of United States flags. It contributes to the combined American Legion Post 79 / VFW Post 5744 Honor Guard which provides Color Guard and Honor Guard rituals at local ceremonies and at veteran funerals and internment ceremonies.

Elected 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 seventh 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 2018.



Trustee (1)

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 (2)

Malcolm Kenney: Mal served in the United States Marine Corps and the in 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 (3)

Steve Shea: Steve served in the United States Army and in the United States Air Force – he was deployed to Southwest Asia. Steve joined VFW Post 5744 in 2006.



Alternate Trustee

Hazen "Jim" Currier: Jim served in the United States Marine Corps – he was deployed to Vietnam. He joined VFW Post 5744 in 2008.



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 deployed to Iraq. He joined VFW Post 5744 in 2017. Brent is an avid Scouting America (Scouting BSA) leader.



Service Officer

Shelly Landry: Shelley served in the United States Air Force and in the Air National Guard – she was deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Shelley joined VFW Post 5744 in 2023. This is her first board assignment.



Associate Service Officer

Daniel Kenney: Dan served in the United States Navy – he was deployed Southwest Asia. Dan joined VFW Post 5744 in 1999. This is his first board assignment.



Surgeon

Roger Guptil: See biography above.



Judge Advocate

Malcolm Kenney: See biography above.



Historian / Public Relations Officer

Michael St. Pierre: Mike served in the United States Navy - he was deployed to Vietnam. He joined the VFW as a “Member-at-Large” (no post affiliation) in 2003 and transferred to Post 5744 in 2019.

Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

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

Public Relations

Hank Hanson and Brian Poirier (Facebook), Mike St. Pierre (Website)

Where We Meet

South Berwick Memorial VFW Post 5744 meets at 1730 every second Thursday of the month, September through May, at the South Berwick Community Center, 71 Norton Street in South Berwick, Maine. There is plenty of parking and the meetings typically include a member-provided meal.



Community Center, South Berwick, Maine



Typical Meeting Arrangement

Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

PART B

POST ACTIVITIES

May 18, 2024: Members of VFW Post 5744, along with members of Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Troup 180 (Dover, NH), mustered at Woodlawn Cemetery in South Berwick to place U.S. Flags on veterans' graves. Some members later continued to Boyd Cemetery, Old Fields Burial Grounds (Vine Street Cemetery), Pleasant Hill Cemetery and Portland Station Cemetery. Harvey Barr, South Berwick's Animal Control Officer, additionally places flags at the many small outlying burial grounds.



Participants in the placement of flags (left to right); John Ford, Ed Hagan, Marc Scheele, Shelley Landry, Barry Kray, Dan Kenney, Mal Kenney, Mike Murray, John Dennett, Jeff Chase, Brent Roets, Eric Roets, Steve Shea, (Mike St. Pierre)



Shelley Landry
placing a flag



Barry Kray
placing a flag



Ed Hagan

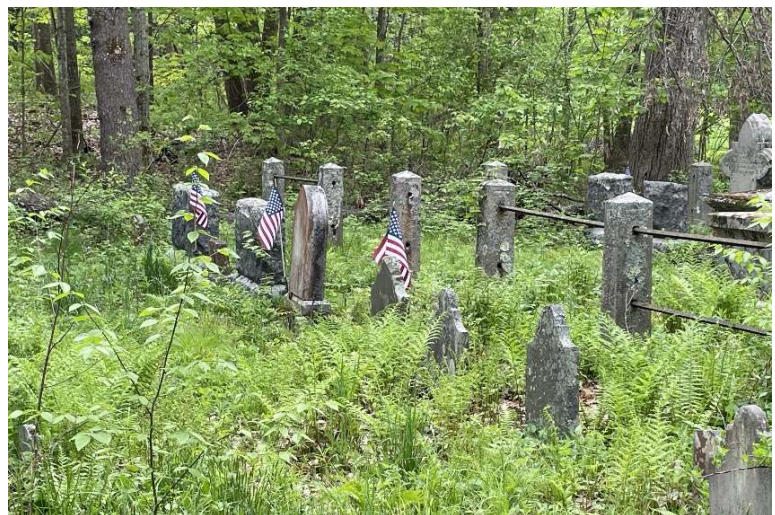


Typical flag presentation



Flags at Woodlawn Cemetery

Flags at Old Fields Burying Grounds (Vine Street Cemetery)



Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

May 22, 2024: Members of VFW Post 5744 were invited to the “Third Grade Patriotic Concert” at South Berwick’s Central School. The concert was in remembrance of those who died in service to our country, and to honor community veterans who served. The program was hosted by Ms. Kate Smith, Music Teacher. Post Senior Vice Commander Barry Kray, Past Post Commander Ernie Wood, and Post Historian Mike St. Pierre were there for the 1400 concert (there was also an 1800 concert).



Music Teacher Kate Smith with the Third Grade Choir in the background and attending students and teachers in the foreground.

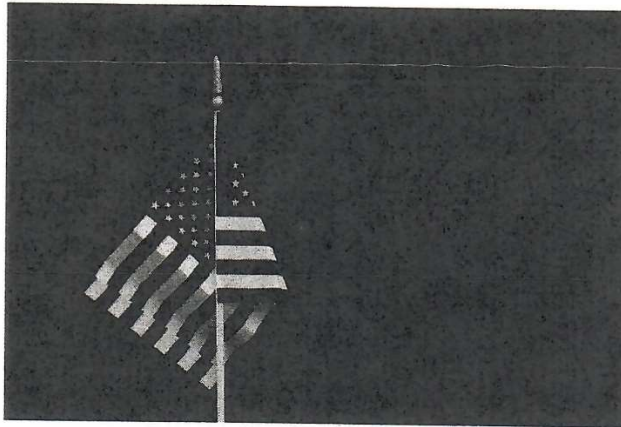
Past Post 5744 Commander Ernie Woods applauds one of the performances.



Veterans in attendance were called to the front as the audience applauded and waved hand-held U.S. Flags. Each veteran was then handed student-made cards noting “Thank You for your service”.

Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

**Central School Proudly Presents:
Third Grade Patriotic Concert
May 22th, 2024**



Welcome to Central School's third grade patriotic concert. Today we remember those who died in service to our country. Our freedom and rights came at a price. How can we show our appreciation for those who made the ultimate sacrifice? Here at Central School, we believe the best way to remember our fallen soldiers is with respect, appreciation and gratitude.

Star-Spangled Banner

arr. by Paul Jennings

In the War of 1812, our nation was fighting to keep our independence from England. Morale was low. Americans were tired of fighting and wanted to move on as an independent nation. On September 13th, 1814 a man named Francis Scott Key watched an important battle at Fort McHenry. He was so relieved to see the American flag still flying that he wrote a poem about it. Francis Scott Key put his poem to music, using a well-known British tune. His poem, now a song, was an instant hit. The Star-Spangled Banner became our national anthem in 1931 when Congress passed a bill and president Herbert Hoover signed it into law. As we begin our patriotic concert, we ask you to please remove your hats and stand for our national anthem.

Armed Forces Medley

arr. by Paul & Ralph Colwell

Our next song is the Armed Forces Medley. While today's program is meant to remember our fallen soldiers, we want to take a moment to honor all who have risked their lives in service to our country. The Armed Forces consist of six service branches and is one of the largest military forces in the world. The six service branches are the army, marine corps, navy, air force, coast guard and space force. We invite members of the armed forces to stand when they hear their anthem so we may recognize you.

PROGRAM - FRONT

Our Heroes Will Live On

Teresa Jennings

In fields and cities, towns and seas,
The ones who faced our foes,
Who gave their best, their most, their all,
With valor midst their woes.
So cherished for their bravest deeds
Upon their courage drawn.
Through tender hearts and memories,
Our heroes will live on.

We honor them with all we have, their sacrifice felt deep.
The light of freedom shines this day for all of us to keep.
When dearest loved ones we recall,
Our tears are never gone.
O, rest in peace remembering
Our heroes will live on.

This next song is sung in honor of our fallen soldiers.

Stars and Stripes Forever

Arr. Paul Jennings

Our next song is Stars and Stripes Forever. This song is set to a march written by John Phillip Sousa in 1897. Once it was released, Stars and Stripes Forever reached #1 in the musical charts. It was revived during the Great War, now known as World War 1, and became the song that helped inspire millions to fight the war to end all wars. In 1987, Stars and Stripes Forever was declared the official national march of the United States of America. The lyrics you will hear today were added to the march by composer Paul Jennings in 1993. Please enjoy Stars and Stripes Forever.

Thankful For the USA

Teresa Jennings

The USA is a powerful and awe-inspiring country because of the men and women who work tirelessly to protect our freedoms and democracy since the United States' rise to independence in 1776. We once again show our gratitude, appreciation and respect for our fallen soldiers and all those who continue to serve. Please enjoy "Thankful for the USA".

Many thanks to everyone who helped make this concert possible. We are grateful for the opportunity to honor our fallen soldiers. Thank you for coming to our patriotic concert. Have a wonderful night!

PROGRAM - BACK

May 27, 2024: Members of VFW Post 5744, its Honor Guard, local Boy Scouts, Firefighters, the Marshwood High School band, other veterans, and local citizens gathered in the South Berwick Town Hall auditorium for Memorial Day observances.



Commander Jeff Chase (left) offered welcoming comments and noted that “We are gathered to honor those men and women who have given so much so we may have the freedoms which we enjoy today.”

The South Berwick Fire Department Honor Guard (right) posted the colors at the start of the ceremony and retired the colors at the conclusion of the program.



VFW
Chaplain
“Pastor”
Bruce

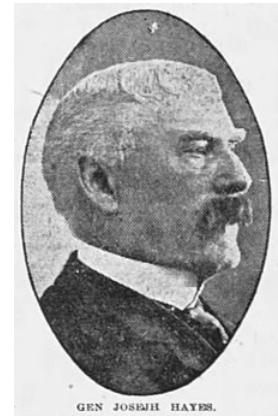
Brown (left) offered an opening invocation and concluding prayer.

Local Boy and Girl Scouts came forward and led everyone in the “Pledge of Allegiance”. The Marshwood High School Band, directed by David Graichen, then played the “National Anthem” and other patriotic songs.



Jeff introduced the distinguished guests present: Town Manager – Tim Pellerin, Town Council Chairman of the Board – Mallory Cook, Town Council Members – John James, Jeff Minihan, Jessica Cyr, and Melissa Costella, State Senator – Mark Lawrence, State Representative – Tiffany Roberts, and local Girl and Boy Scout Troops.

Jeff then read a synopsis of the career of General Joseph Hayes of South Berwick. General Hayes was one of 25 South Berwick citizens who are known to have fought at Gettysburg. General Hayes eventually became this town's most decorated soldier. General Hayes' tombstone is in the middle of the historic Old Fields Burying Ground on Vine Street in South Berwick. [Photo of General Joseph Hayes in old age, from his obituary in *The Boston Globe* (August 20, 1912).]



Jeff completed a Ceremonial Muster Call for those Post members who died within the past year; Hank Hansen rang a bell after each name was called. These included Richard Normandin (U.S. Navy), Ray Brunelle (U.S. Army), and Jerry Schumacher (U.S. Army).

Mal Kenney laid a wreath at the Cleary-Collier Park Memorial, which honors James Cleary (U.S. Army) and Raymond Collier (U.S. Army) who lost their lives in the Vietnam War. This memorial is also known as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.





The VFW Honor Guard, comprised of Brent Roets, Mike Murray and Roger Guptill, fired a three-volley gun salute in honor of our fallen comrades.

Marshwood High School trumpeters Patrick Graichen and Ozzie Gilbert played “Taps” and an “echo”.



Over 100 civilians and veterans were in attendance.



Joyce St. Pierre and Pastor Bruce Brown



Alton Smith (ret. USCG)



Brunelle Bailey (Ret. USAF) and Bruce Brown



Bobbi Beaver (former State Representative) and Floyd Beaver (USAF)



Debbie Zagroski, Sally-Ann Kenney, Zelda Kenney, Jaye Gorham, Mary Hussey

Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

June 26, 2024: Members of VFW Post 5744 mustered at Tasker Funeral Home in Dover New Hampshire for the Funeral Service of VFW Life Member Norman "Spike" Allard. In attendance were Jeff Chase, Barry Kray, Malcolm Kenney, Bruce Brown, Paul Lapierre, and Roger Guptill.



Obituary

Norman "Spike" Allard

Dover NH-Norman "Spike" Allard, Sr., passed away peacefully on Saturday June 22, 2024, in his home surrounded by his family.

Born on September 14, 1927, in Laconia, NH, he was the son of Ovide and Marie (Croteau) Allard.

Norman proudly served his country in the US Navy as a Seabee during World War II.

He was a dedicated Fire Fighter for the city of Dover for over 30 years, retiring as Deputy Chief.

Spike was a member of the American Legion in Rollinsford, having been a past commander three times. He was also a member of the VFW in South Berwick, ME, as well as a former member of the Elks in Dover. Spike also was a member of the Drum and Bugle Corps in Somersworth NH.

He enjoyed carpentry, fixing things, and tinkering around the garage. He was a huge Red Sox fan and loved watching the games with his family. Spike also enjoyed watching the Patriots play.

Norman loved going on casino trips with his wife Irene. They enjoyed many trips to Fox Woods where they would play penny slots together.

Spike ran his own contractor business for many years alongside his son-in-law, Allard and Masse Contracting.

Norman was a very social man who made friends everywhere he went. He was so proud of his large family and was happiest in their company.

He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

Spike was predeceased by his son, Norman Allard Jr., his great grandson Alexander LeClerc, his brother Roger and sisters Vi Dube, Rose Ackerman, Lou Abel, and Shirley Ross.

Norman is survived by his loving wife of over 72 years, Irene Bertha (Plante) Allard, eight children; Gail Masse and husband Larry, Garry Allard and wife Barbara, Michael Allard, Lydia Toland, Dianne Paul, Annette Plaisted and husband Michael, Timothy Allard and wife Marcella, Lisa Crossman and her husband Michael and daughter-in-law Patsy Allard, Brothers; Edmund Allard, Robert Allard, Richard Allard, and Raymond Allard, his sister, Linda Coates, 21 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-granddaughter, as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Visitation will take place for Spike on Wednesday June 26, 2024, from 4pm-6pm at Tasker Funeral Home, located at 621 Central Ave, Dover NH 03820.

A graveside burial with military honors will take place on Thursday June 27, 2024, at 10:00am at the NH Veteran's Cemetery in Boscawen NH. A Celebration of Life to follow at the Dover Elks #184 lodge located at 282 Durham Rd, Dover, NH from 12:00 to 3:00pm

In lieu of flowers a donation may be made in his name to the Dover Professional Firefighters Association Local 1312 at 288 Central Avenue, Dover, NH 03820

June 29, 2024: Members of VFW Post 5744 set up a booth at the South Berwick Strawberry Festival to sell bottled water as a fundraiser, and to provide information and sign-up opportunities to qualifying veterans. Remote wagon-based water sales stations were additionally established throughout the festival grounds.



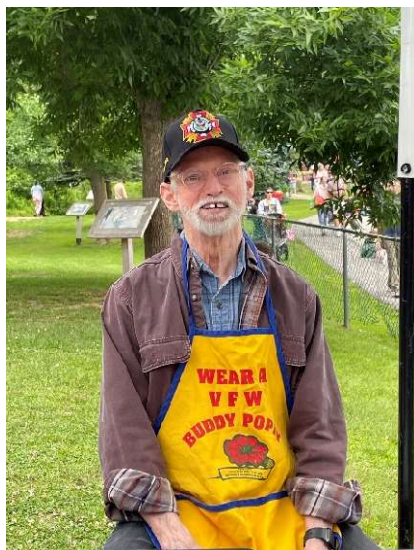
VFW Water Sales and Information Booth at the S.B. Strawberry Festival



Bruce Brown, Barry Kray, Roger Guptill
man the main booth



Roger Guptill and Malcolm Kenney
enjoying the day



Marc Scheele,
Paul Rollins,
Hank Hanson,
Daniel Kenney,
and Mike St. Pierre manning the remote water-
sales wagons.

Pictures by Mike St. Pierre, Historian, and Mary Caplette

July 13, 2024: Members of South Berwick Memorial VFW Post 5744 were invited to the South Berwick home of Louis and Sara Brewster, where their son, Liam Brewster, was celebrated at a Boy Scout of America (BSA) Eagle Scout – Court of Honor. Liam becomes the 42nd Eagle Scout promoted through South Berwick BSA Troup #338. Mr. Russ Abell was Scout Master at the ceremony; an Eagle Scout himself, Mr. Abell led the Voice of the Eagle for Liam. Post Commander Jeff Chase and Past Commander Mal Kenney presented Mr. Brewster with a VFW – *Certificate of Recognition* and a cash gift. Roger Guptill was also in attendance.



CDR Jeff Chase gives the invocation



Eagle Scout Candle Ceremony

The Eagle Scout candle ceremony involves lighting candles to symbolize the Scout Oath and Scout Law, which are fundamental principles of Scouting.

Photos by Roger Guptill



VFW Commander Jeff Chase presents a VFW *Certificate of Recognition* to Eagle Scout Liam Brewster as Past Commander Malcolm Kenney looks on.
(Photo by Sara Brewster)



Veterans of Foreign Wars
“Certificate of Recognition”

Photo by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

July 24, 2024 (and other dates): Members of VFW Post 5744 launched a “Snacks” Concession Stand as a means of generating income to support the Post’s community and veteran support services.

Items were carefully selected from companies that share our values of supporting Veterans and First Responders, as well as for sustainability and donating back to the community. Our introductory offerings included warm pretzels (Seacoast Pretzel Co., Rollinsford NH), beef jerky and meat sticks (Anthem Snack Co., Montana based veteran-owned company), popcorn (POPZUP Popcorn, Somersworth NH), lemonade (Newman’s Own), and water (Poland Springs).



After two delays, due to heat and then rain, the first of these was at South Berwick’s “Hot Summer Nights” concert featuring “Poor Howard and Mike (Bullfrog) Rogers”, with an opening act by local musicians “Tucker Smith and Henry Honkonen”.

Commander Jeff Chase and his wife Dawn additionally set up the concession stand on **July 27th** at the South Berwick and Wells Christian Church “yard sale”.

Our second go at a the “Hot Summer Night” concert series was on **July 31st** and featured the “Cormac McCarthy Band”, with an opening by local musician “Beckett Barlow”.



Tucker Smith and Henry Honkonen Poor Howard and Mike “Bullfrog” Rogers



Jeff Chase, Dawn Chase and Daniel Kenney man the Concession Stand at our premiere Hot Summer Night Concert. (Mike St. Pierre is taking the picture.)



Roger Guptill, Mike St. Pierre and Jeff Chase man the concession stand on **July 28th** at the Sanford Sounds annual “Show and Shine” Car Show.

Absent from the photo is Dawn Chase

Additional Hot Summer Night dates are slated, and additional venues are being sought.

Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian (and another)

August 17, 2024; Members of South Berwick Memorial VFW Post 5744, their families, and guests gathered at the home of Past Post-Commander Malcolm Kenney for the post's annual BBQ Social. The post provided a variety of barbequed meats while the attendees provided a variety of side dishes and desserts. Commander Jeff Chase also provided samples of new food items the post is considering for its concessionaire fundraisers. The gathering provided opportunities for old friends to reconnect and chances for members and guests to meet new and prospective members. The post afterwards provided prizes, which were raffled off. Fifty members and guests attended.



Far left: Commander Jeff Chase welcomes everyone.

Left: Chaplain Bruce Brown provides an opening prayer.

Below: Mal Kenney provides introductions.



Far left: the Post's newest member, U.S. Army Reservist Eugene Cheney and his wife Emily.

Middle above: member applicant Mark Cahoon and his wife Georgia.



Manning the grills: Brent Roets, Mark Kenney, and Barry Kray



The mess hall included two large pole tents with a serving line (pictured) and three rows of tables with plenty of seating.

The main dishes were grilled chicken, chicken wings, bratwurst, hot dogs, and hamburgers.

Side dishes included vegetable platters, various beans, fruit, pasta, and potato salads, coleslaw, baked beans, and au gratin vegetable dishes.

Desserts included cakes, pies, brownies, cookies, and the like.

There was indeed plenty and more than enough leftovers for “doggie bags”!

The following noteworthy guests were identified:



Left: Maurice "Moe" Cote, Commander – Christian War Veterans (CWV)



Left: Lorraine Williams, Commander, Disabled American Veterans (DAV)



Right: Melanie Joyce, Past-Commander, DAV Auxiliary



Left Bill Widders, Past-Commander, VFW Post 5744 and Past-Commander, CWV



Left: Thomas Joyce, Husband of Melanie Joyce



Left: invited guest and potential new member Nicholas Hanchey with his wife Kerry and son Eion (missing: daughter Eliana).



Right: Christine and Gary Imbrie



Mal Kenney notified those assembled that the USS Washington (SSN 787), a Virginia-class attack submarine, would be posted at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard beginning in September for refurbishment. The USS Washington is typically based in Norfolk, Virginia. He has asked South Berwick's Town Manager, Tim Pellerin, to consider hosting the ship. He also asked that the post provide monthly welcoming gatherings for the crew and their families.



Left: Ed Hagan won one of Post 5744's new ballcaps; here he is modeling it!



Left: Nancy Dennett won the second Post 5744 hat!

Right: Paul and Helda Rollins



Group photo of VFW Post 5744 members, family, and guests at the annual BBQ social. Fifty people were in attendance. (Photo by Joyce St. Pierre)

Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

September 7, 2024: Members of VFW Post 5744 operated a “Snacks” Concession Stand at the Mill Fields Festival in North Berwick as a fundraising effort. Chef Jeff offered grilled breakfast pastries on nan bread, warmed pretzels, and hot pizza. Other offerings included beef jerky, meat sticks, various flavors of popcorn, and various beverages.



VFW Post 5744 Concession Stand at Mill Field Festival

Manning the stand: Roger Guptill, Jeff Chase and Dawn Chase. Others who helped during the day: Barry Kray, Mike Murray and Mike St. Pierre.



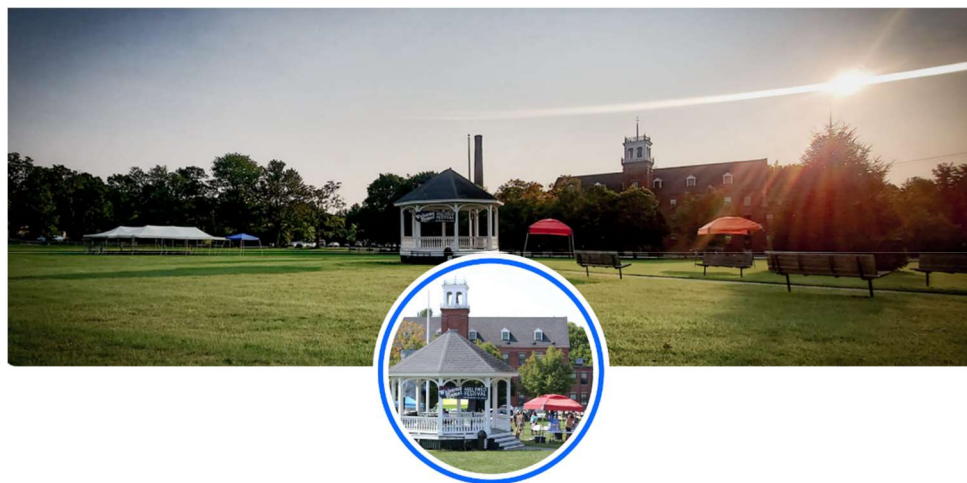
Here's a sample of the snack items provided:



Flatbread Pizzas,
Breakfast Pastries,
Warm Pretzels



Anthem Beef Jerky,
Anthem Meat Sticks,
Pop Zup Popcorn



Mill Field Festival -North Berwick Maine

Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian; Mill Field Festival Photo from Facebook Page

September 7, 2024: Members of VFW Post 5744 set up a recruiting tent at the Pumpkinman Triathlon Event held annually at Spring Hill Lodge in South Berwick Maine. Malcolm Kenney and Daniel Kenney manned the tent from 0800 – 1200.



VFW Post 5744 Recruiting Tent



Pumpkinman Triathlon Event – Stock Photo

Photo by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

September 9, 2024: VFW Post 5744 mustered at Mainly Local Yokes for a regular meeting.



Minutes of Regular Meeting on 9-9-24

14 Members Present

Commander – Jeffrey Chase

Senior Vice Commander – Barry Kray

Junior Vice Commander – Michael Murray

Quartermaster – Marc Scheele

Historian – Michael St. Pierre

Adjutant -Brent Roets

Chaplain – Bruce Brown

Service Officer – Shelley Landry

Assistant SO – Daniel Kenney

Assistant SO, Daniel Kenney, was absent (excused).

Opening:

1733: Meeting called to order by Commander Jeff Chase, as per VFW Ritual.

We Rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

1734: Opening Prayer by Chaplain Pastor Bruce Brown.

1806: Resumed business meeting.

Commander Chase



Post Minutes:

1. Upon motion made by Michael St. Pierre, seconded by Ed Hagan, it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes of the Post meeting held on 4/08/24.

Quartermaster's Report:

1. Marc Scheele gave Financial Reports for the months ending 6/30/24, 7/31/24, and 8/31/24. Upon motion made by Malcolm Kenney, seconded by Barry Kray, it was unanimously voted to accept the Quartermaster's financial reports, subject to audit.

Quartermaster Scheele



Service Officer's Report:



1. Shelley Landry noted that numerous members are experiencing medical issues. For more detailed information or how you can help, contact Shelley or Assistant Service Officer Daniel Kenney.

a. Numerous Post members have COVID

b. Hazen "Jim" Courrier had heart surgery.

Stan Sheldon is not doing well.

c. Robert "Gabby" Place is not doing well. (Note: Gabby passed away 9/26/24.)

Service Officer Landry

New Members Report:

1. Roger Guptill reported that we have one application in progress.

Membership Committee Report:

1. It was reported we have one prospective member.

a. Upon motion made by Mike Murray, seconded by Barry Kray, the Membership Committee, consisting of Roger Guptill, Mike Murray, Brent Roets, Bruce Brown, and Barry Kray, voted to recommend to the Post the acceptance of Nick Ray Martin as an Annual member.

New Annual Member Nick Ray Martin

b. Upon motion made by Malcom Kenney, seconded by Mike St. Pierre, it was unanimously voted to accept to the Post new Annual member Nick Ray Martin.

2. Two other potential members (Nick and Kerri Henchey) were discussed and introduced.

Potential New Member Nick Henchey



Legislative Business:

1. Malcolm Kenney had nothing to report at this time.





Commander Chase and Membership Chair Roger Guptill presents new annual member Nick Ray Martin with a Post Ball Cap

Correspondence:

1. Jeff Chase noted that we received correspondence from the South Berwick Food Pantry, thanking us for our donations.
2. We also received word from First Parish Federated Church regarding working with them on their Turkey Suppers.

Old Business:

1. Nothing at this time.

New Business:

1. Summer recap:
 - a. Approximately 50 people attended our August Picnic.
 - b. Strawberry Festival water sales raised \$632.00
 - c. Fund raising at the Hot Summer Nights Concerts raised \$2,300.00
2. Our next two meetings fall on Mondays that are federal holidays and will be held instead on the Tuesday following the holiday instead (October 15 and November 12).
3. VOD/PP info has been given out to the respective schools.
4. Discussions regarding Planning Committees for the following activities:
 - a. Having a table and selling our goods on Election Day at Central School
 - i. Upon a motion made by Marc Scheele, seconded by Barry Kray, it was unanimously voted to sell food items on Election Day, 11/5/24, at South Berwick's Polling Station (Central School).
 - b. Our Veteran's Day Ceremony will be on November 11th at South Berwick Town Hall.
 - c. Our Poppy Toll will be held on November 9.
 - d. The Pearl Harbor Ceremony will be held on December 7.

- e. 50/50 tickets and drawing to be held on November 13
 - f. Informative discussion on our Post PopZup Popcorn and Anthem Jerky sales.
 - g. Discussion on Post scholarships.
 - h. We are partnering with the Town of South Berwick on Sponsoring the USS Washington when they pull into the Navy Yard.
5. Upon a motion made by Marc Scheele, seconded by Barry Kray, it was unanimously voted to set up a credit card account for concession items in the amount of \$2,500.00, to be audited monthly, at Kennebunk Savings.

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 10/15/24 at Mainely Local Yolks.**

Dates to Remember:

- 1. Honor Guard Practices: the first Monday of the month at 1830. The Honor Guard needs additional members – contact Dennis Ouellette if interested.

Closing Prayer:

1900: Closing Prayer by Chaplain Pastor Bruce Brown.

Vote to Adjourn:

1901: Upon motion made by Commander Jeff Chase, seconded by Adjutant Brent Roets, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.

50/50 Drawing Winner: Mike Murray – \$20 prize was donated back to Post
Free Meal Drawing: None

Pictures by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

October 1, 2024: Members of American Legion (AL) Charles S. Hatch Post 79, Quint-Cheney Post 87, Veteran of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) South Berwick Memorial Post 5744, and their joint Honor Guard attended a funeral service for deceased multi-post



member and long-time Historian Robert "Gabby" Keith Place at Bethany Christian Church in North Berwick. Nearly 50 veteran comrades were in attendance.

Open-casket visitation occurred at the church between 1300 and 1500, where attendees had the opportunity for private homage to Gabby.

The funeral service began with the veterans walking in single file, each stopping before Gabby, offering a hand salute, and then preceding to their designated seating areas on the right side of the church. Members of AL Post 79 led the procession, followed by the Joint-post Honor Guard, AL Post 87, and then VFW Post 5744.

The church's pastor officiated over the church's decorous funeral service.

Commander Brian English and Chaplain Paul Lapierre of AL Post 87 were then invited to the pulpit for comments, invocations, and the reading / presentation of an **American Legion Post Everlasting Certificate**. The certificate stated:

"Whereas, It has pleased Almighty God, the Great Commander, to summon to the immortal legions our beloved comrade, Robert "Gabby" Keith Place, and Whereas, We humbly bow to the will of Divine Providence, while ever cherishing in our hearts the memory of distinguished service to our country and outstanding contributions to American Legion comradeship; now, therefore, be it Resolved, That Charles S. Hatch Post 87, The American Legion does mourn the passing of our comrade, Robert "Gabby" Keith Place, That we commend to all the works, and to God the spirit; and be it further Resolved, That in token of our common grief, a copy of this resolution transferring Robert "Gabby" Keith Place to Post Everlasting, The American Legion, be presented to the next of kin."

Commander English next invited Past Post 87 Commander Ronald Vigue to offer comments on Gabby's association with the American Legion, and then Chaplain Lapierre concluded with another prayer.

Commander Jeffrey Chase and Chaplain Bruce Brown of VFW Post 5744 were then invited to the pulpit for comments, invocations, and execution of a **VFW Chapel Service**.

Commander Chase ordered Junior Vice-Commander Mark Scheele, holding a sprig of evergreen; Senior Vice-Commander Barry Kray, holding a white flower; Officer of the Day Brent Roets, holding a laurel wreath; and Ritual Commander Shelley Landry, holding a small flag of the United States, to stand by the casket, facing the assembly. Commander Chase then proclaimed:

"We, the members of South Berwick Memorial Post 5744, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, are here assembled to pay a lasting tribute of respect to our departed comrade. When the call of our country was heard, Comrade Robert "Gabby" Keith Place answered; self was forgotten in the cause of the greater good. Bravely they marched away with the abiding faith in their God, their country, and their flag.

The red of our country's flag was made redder by their heroism; the white made more stainlessly pure by the motives which impelled them; and, in the starry field of our country's glorious banner, the blue has been glorified by the service they have given for American ideals."

Chaplain Brown provided an invocation, then Commander Chase attempted to play the song "**Sleep, Soldier Boy**" by Dorothy Alexander:

*"The battle's over and peace is all around you,
Sleep soldier boy, sleep on.*

*The canon's roar can never more disturb you,
Sleep soldier boy, sleep on.*

*Your journey is ended, your work here is done,
Sleep soldier boy and rest,*

*Your flag you defended, the vict'ry you won,
Sleep on among the blest.*

*The sun's gone down, and darkness has enclosed you,
Sleep soldier boy, sleep on.*

A mother's arms are waiting to enfold you,

*Sleep soldier boy, sleep on.
The time is not long when the bugle will sound forth,
Must'ring you back again.
You'll wake with the dawning, and answer to roll call,
Sleep soldier boy till then.*

*(to taps)
Sleep in peace soldier boy,
Till the bugle calls you with the dawn.
Sleep and rest, God is nigh, soldier boy."*

Commander Chase then proclaimed:

"One by one, as the years roll on, we are called upon to fulfill these sad duties of respect to our departed comrades.

Attention! Officers of South Berwick Memorial Post 5744, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, you will now fulfill the last duties of your station."

Junior Vice-Commander Scheele faces the casket, approaches it, and places the evergreen sprig on the casket as Commander Chase declared: *"On behalf of South Berwick Memorial Post 5744, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I present this evergreen tribute as a symbol of our undying love for our comrade."* Comrade Scheele then saluted the casket and returned to the formation.

Senior Vice-Commander Kray repeated the approach and placed the white flowers on the casket as Commander Chase declared: *"I place these white flowers as a symbol of purity upon the casket, and may each future generation emulate the unselfish devotion to duty even to the last of our comrades."* Comrade Kray then saluted the casket and returned to the formation.

Officer of the Day Roets repeated the approach and placed the laurel wreath on the casket as Commander Chase declared: *"We place this wreath as a last token of affection from their comrades-in-arms upon the casket of our departed comrade and crown their mortal dust with this symbol of victory."* Comrade Landry then saluted the casket and returned to the formation.

Ritual Commander Landry repeated the approach and placed the small American flag on the casket as Commander Chase declared: *"On behalf of our glorious republic, for whose integrity our comrades of the Veterans of Foreign Wars enlisted and served, we place upon their casket this emblem of*

our country, a country whose arms are always open to shelter the oppressed.”
Comrade XX then saluted the casket and returned to formation.

Commander Chase then invited Adjutant Malcolm Kenney to offer comments on Gabby’s association with the VFW. Chaplain Brown then offered another prayer and Commander Chase dismissed the participating officers.

The church’s pastor concluded the service with a closing prayer and allowed any present to share stories about Gabby.

Robert "Gabby" Keith Place

October 13, 1943 ~ September 26, 2024 (age 80)



Services

Visitation

Tuesday
October 1, 2024
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
Bethel Christian Church
129 Lower Main Street
North Berwick, ME 03906

Funeral Service

Tuesday
October 1, 2024
3:00 PM
Bethel Christian Church (North Berwick)

Graveside Services

Thursday
October 3, 2024
10:00 AM
Southern Maine Veterans Cemetery
87 Stanley Road
Springvale, ME 04083

Robert "Gabby" Keith Place passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family on September 26th, 2024, after a long battle with cancer. Robert was born in Sanford, Maine on October 13th, 1943. He grew up on his family's farm in North Berwick and met Phyllis in 1961 after her family moved to Maine. Shortly after moving to Maine, Robert and Phyllis began a life-long relationship where they would travel to the beach and visit during farm chores. They eventually married in November 1965 before Robert deployed to South Korea after enlisting in the U.S. Army. Upon return, Robert and Phyllis lived in Fort Hood, Texas until his enlistment concluded where he was honorably discharged from the Army at the rank of Specialist Five in 1968. They then returned to North Berwick and purchased their first home where Robert proceeded to build the family house while working at Hussey Seating Company. Robert worked at Hussey as a Welder, Supervisor, and in Research and Development until retiring in 2007 after 44 years of employment with the company. He then began a part-time career in the Marshwood School District as a Custodian and as an employee for the Town of North Berwick.

Robert is survived by his wife of 59 years Phyllis Place, daughter Christine, daughter Melissa, son Michael (wife Denise), son Kenneth (wife Leslie), granddaughter Katie (husband Benjamin), grandson Matthew (wife Adrienne), grandson Nicholas, grandson Dylan, granddaughter Moriah (husband Joshua), granddaughter Keana, great-granddaughter Lila, great-granddaughter Maci, great-granddaughter Skylar, great-granddaughter Ashlyn, great-granddaughter Maggie, great-grandson Luke, and many other beloved siblings, cousins, nieces, nephews, and family members.

Robert was a very active lifetime member of the American Legion (Berwick post 79) and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW South Berwick post 5744). The family requests donations to the American Legion or VFW in lieu of flowers with the memo "in Memory of Robert Place" for the establishment of a memorial scholarship in his honor.

Visiting hours will be held Tuesday, October 1, 2024 1pm-3pm with a Funeral Service at 3pm at Bethel Christian Church, 129 Lower Main St, North Berwick Maine. Burial will be Thursday October 3, 2024 at 10am at Southern Maine Veterans Cemetery, Springvale, Maine.

Arrangements are entrusted to Johnson Funeral Home, North Berwick, Maine.

Donations may be made to:

South Berwick Memorial Post 5744, VFW
P.O. Box 58, North Berwick ME 03906

Berwick Post 79
P.O. Box 79, Berwick ME 03901

October 3, 2024: Members of American Legion (AL) Charles S. Hatch Post 79, Quint-Cheney Post 87, Veteran of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) South Berwick Memorial Post 5744, and their joint Honor Guard attended a burial service for deceased multi-post member and long-time Historian Robert “Gabby” Keith Place, at Southern Maine Veterans Cemetery in Springvale. The service was well attended by veteran comrades.

The assembled veterans, in their respective uniforms, lined the short pathway from the conveyance driveway to the burial ground’s chapel, offering a hand salute as the receptible containing Gabby’s ashes were carried to the chapel.

A standard burial service was provided. Military honors were rendered. Two active-duty Army personnel completed the Flag Ceremony. The joint Honor Guard provided a three-volley salute and the sounding of Taps (with echo).

Commander Brian English and Chaplain Paul Lapierre of AL Post 87 offered brief comments and prayers.

Commander Jeffrey Chase and Chaplain Bruce Brown of VFW Post 5744 offered brief comments and prayers.

The assembled veterans were dismissed after the burial procession continued into the cemetery where Gabby’s remains will rest.

October 5, 2024: VFW Post 5744 operated a Concession Stand at the First Parish Federated Church Fall Festival in South Berwick as a fundraising effort. Offerings were like previous efforts, but this time included baked muffins, apple cobbler, and hot apple cider.



VFW Post 5744 Concession Stand at the First Parish Fall Festival



Dawn Chase, Marc Scheele, and Jeff Chase.
Missing from photo: Mike St. Pierre.

Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian



October 15, 2024: VFW Post 5744 mustered at South Berwick's Community Center for a regular meeting.



Minutes of Regular Meeting on 10-15-24

23 Members Present

2 Guests Present

Commander – Jeffrey Chase

Adjutant -Brent Roets

Senior Vice Commander – Barry Kray

Chaplain – Bruce Brown

Junior Vice Commander – Michael Murray

Service Officer – Shelley Landry

Quartermaster – Marc Scheele

Assistant SO – Daniel Kenney

Historian – Michael St. Pierre

Opening:

- This was our very first meeting at our new venue!
- 1730: Meeting was called to order by Post Commander Jeff Chase, as per VFW Ritual
- We Rose for the Pledge of Allegiance
- Opening Prayer by Chaplain Pastor Bruce Brown
- Introduction of Guest: [Kristine Bisson](#), Veterans Day Coordinator – Marshwood Middle School.



[CDR Chase](#) →



Ms. Bisson addressed the post prior to tonight's meal offering. She invited post member to join the Marshwood Middle School community on Friday, November 1st, from 9-10:30, when they present their twenty-fourth annual assembly "**In Honor of Our Veterans**". Their invitation went out to veterans, active-duty personnel, first responders and guests. Ms. Bisson handed out colorful Hold the Date cards.

← [Kristine Bisson](#)

- Introduction of Guest: **Lynn Rendell**, District 11 Service Officer and member Post 87 – American Legion.



Mr. Rendell addressed the post prior to tonight's meal offering. He indicated that, while active in the American Legion, he had never attended a VFW meeting, and he wanted to learn more about our Post and the VFW in general. He was especially interested in seeing how we contribute to our community and to veterans therein.

- Break for meal: tonight's offering – spaghetti with meat sauce & salad. Thanks to Commander Jeff and Dawn Chase and to Shelly Landry for tonight's meal.

Minutes:

1. Upon motion made by Bill Weners, seconded by Mike Murray, it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes of the Post meeting held on 9/9/24.

Quartermaster's Report:

1. Quartermaster Marc Scheele gave his Financial Report for the month ending 9/9/24. Upon motion by Barry Kray, seconded by Mike Murray, it was unanimously voted to accept the Quartermaster's Report, subject to audit.

Service Officer's Report:

1. Service Officer Shelly Landry noted that several members were experiencing medical issues, including:
 - a. Hazen "Jim" Courrier
 - b. Stanley Sheldon
 - c. Edward Hagan
 - d. Bill Winners

For more information, or for how you can help, please contact Shelley.

New Members Report:

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

Membership Committee Report:

1. Prospective member Nick Henchey was discussed.
 - a. Upon motion made by Mike Murray, seconded by Barry Kray, the Membership Committee (Roger Guptill, Mike Murray, Bruce Brown, and Barry Kray) unanimously voted to recommend the acceptance of Nick Henchey as an Annual member into the Post.
 - b. Upon motion by Mike Murray, seconded by Malcolm Kenney, it was unanimously voted to accept Nick Henchey as an Annual Member into the Post.
2. Steve Dix changed from an active Annual Member to a Life Member. No further action was needed in this regard.
3. Mike Gaudette, an Annual Member in years past, asked to be reinstated as a Life Member.
 - a. The Membership Committee (Roger Guptill, Mike Murray, Bruce Brown, and Barry Kray) unanimously voted to recommend Mike Gaudette as a Life Member into the Post.
 - b. Upon motion duly made by a Post Member, seconded by Malcom Kenney, it was unanimously voted to accept Mike Gaudette as a new Life Member into the Post.

Veteran's Legislative Issues:

1. No legislative activity indicated.

Correspondence:

1. Commander Chase noted that South Berwick Memorial VFW Post 5744 has been chosen for a American Spirit Award. This will be presented on November 20th at 1530 at the York County Government Center in Alfred.

Old Business:

1. No old business indicated.

New Business:

1. Post leadership will present **Mainely Local Yolks a *Community Service Award*** as a formal Thank You for their hosting our meetings over the last three years.
2. **New meeting venue/day:** We will henceforth be meeting at the South Berwick Community Center the 2nd Thursday of the month at 1730. Members indicated they prefer having meals; these would be brought in on a sign-up basis.
3. Sign-ups for working the Poppy “Toll Booth” are being coordinated by Roger Guptill. The “Toll Booth” will occur on Saturday, November 9th (10th rain date).
4. The Post will be operating its Snacks Concession Stand outside the South Berwick Polling Place (Central School) on Election Day.
5. Planning is underway for hosting the USS Washington.
6. Discussion was had on collecting donations for a scholarship in the name of Robert “Gabby” Place.
7. Commander Chase appointed Mike St. Pierre, Hank Hansen, Brent Roets, and Dan Kenney to evaluate creating a website presence.
8. Discussion was had on how we would handle meals at Post Regular Meetings. It was agreed to handle this on a month-by-month basis with volunteer signups.
9. Mal Kenney noted that we would do the Post 50/50 drawing again this year. Drawing to be held November 13th.
10. Discussions were had regarding VFW PP and VOA essays, and Teacher of the Year programs.

Roger Guptill →



11. Discussion was had regarding Post Scholarships, and Mal asked if there were any applicants.
12. Discussion was had on inquiring with the South Berwick Strawberry Festival people regarding cleanup that was previously done by Scouting America's South Berwick Troup
13. Discussion was had regarding changing from a "Fruit Basket" to a "Snacks Basket" for home visits.
14. Planning is underway for the Veterans Day Observance to include the Post Honor Guard and a Color Guard. This will be November 11 at 1400 at the South Berwick Town Hall.
15. Planning is underway for the Pearl Harbor Day observance including the Post Honor Guard. This will be December 7th at 0800 at Counting House Park.

Dates to Remember:

- November 1st 8 AM Veterans Ceremony at Marshwood Middle School
- November 5th 8 AM Election Day concession sales and recruiting table
- November 7th 8-3 Veterans Ceremony at Marshwood Great Works Sch.
- November 9th 8-3 Poppy Drive Fundraiser
- November 11th 2 PM Veterans Day Ceremony South Berwick Town Hall
- November 16th 9 AM Woodlawn Cemetery Veteran Flag retirement
- November 20th 5:30 PM York County American Spirit Award in Alfred
- November 30th 9-3 South Berwick Home for the Holidays concession sales
- December 7th 8 AM Pearl Harbor Day Counting House Park

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 Regular Post Meeting:

1. November 14th at 1730 at South Berwick Community Center

Closing Prayer:

1. Chaplain Pastor Bruce Brown offered a prayer.

Vote to Adjourn:

1. Commander Chase initiated the vote to adjourn.

Our new home:



Community Center – South Berwick, Maine

Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

October 24, 2024: Members of South Berwick Memorial VFW Post 5744 gathered at Mainly Local Yokes in Berwick for breakfast and to recognize business owners Justin and Elizabeth Canton. Commander Jeffrey Chase presented the Cantons with a *Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Citation* as an expression of sincere appreciation and full praise for patriotic service to the community.



Assembled for this recognition (left to right) Roger Guptill, Marc Scheele, Elizabeth Canton, Justin Canton, Jeffrey Chase, Malcolm Kenney, and Barry Kray. Not pictured: Michael Murray, Julie Murray, Bruce Brown, and Dawn Chase.

Photo by Dawn Chase.

Commander Case read the following proclamation: *South Berwick VFW Memorial Post 5744 presents this Community Service Award to Mainely Local Yolks Restaurant in recognition of their years of selfless dedication in hosting South Berwick Memorial VFW Post 5744. Despite a busy first year reopening you displayed gracious hospitality in allowing our Post to hold its monthly meetings over the last three years. The food and service you provided for our Post, Veterans, and community during this period was always excellent. Your Choice as Berwick's Business of the Year in 2023 was well deserved. You also excelled in hosting District 11 meetings on Sundays, as well as Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, and Teacher of the Year award banquets for over sixty people on several occasions. You are most heartily commended for your efforts and your hard work is greatly appreciated. You continue to set the standard for other small local businesses regarding displaying support for Veterans and the community. We wish you the best, in the future, for your family and staff at Mainely Local Yolks Restaurant.*



Mainely Local Yokes Restaurant at the Post Office Plaza
in Berwick, Maine

Post 5744 recently announced that it has changed its meeting venue to the **second Thursday of the month at 1750 at the Community Center in South Berwick** – meetings occur from September through May.

November 1, 2024: Members of VFW Post 5744, along with other veterans, active-duty military, first responders, and guests, at the invitation of school and program administrators, attended Marshwood Middle School's twenty-fourth annual assembly "In Honor of Our Veterans"



The first thing one notices when entering the school are the permanent displays honoring veterans.

Before the start of the assembly honored veterans, active-duty military, and first responders lined the halls from the cafeteria



to the gymnasium. The number of people noted in these pictures is indicative of the popularity of this program!



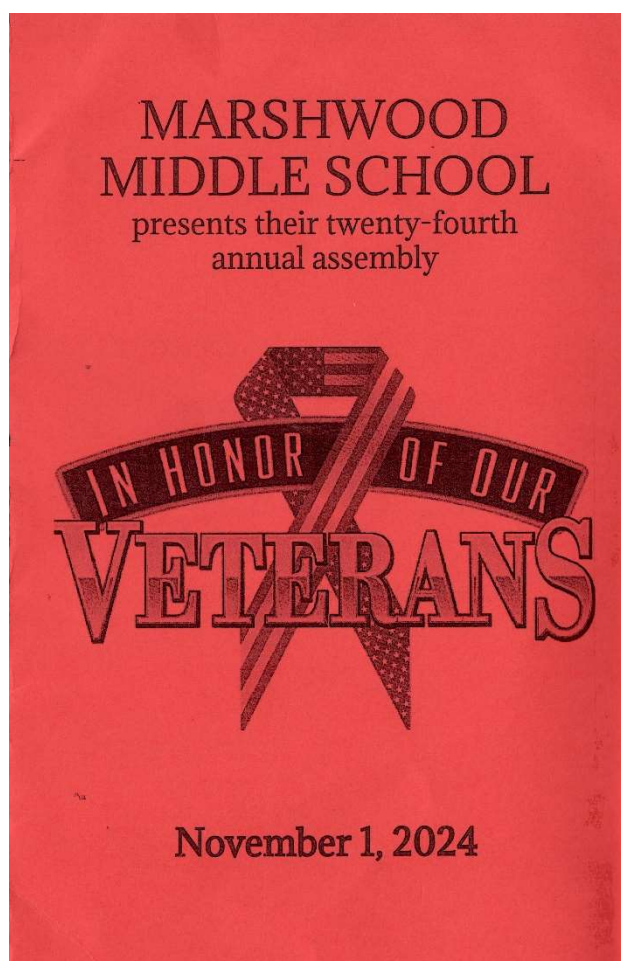
After the students, parents and guests were situated in the gymnasium, the formal program began with the **"*March of the Veterans*"**, whereas those honored marched into the gym, entering to the thunderous applaud of those assembled there. The honorees were seated in the middle of the gym.

The **Eliot Police Honor Guard** presented and posted the colors. The **Eighth Grade Flag Force** provided a field of United States flags as the assembly recited our *Pledge of Allegiance*. The **Eight Grade Vocal Ensemble** provided a beautiful rendition of *The National Anthem*.

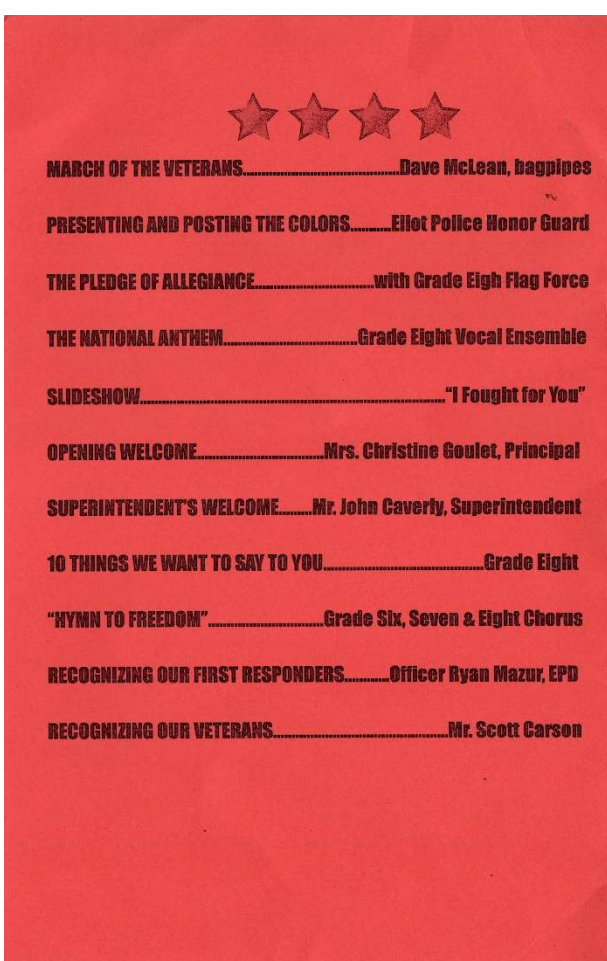
The rest of the program is as described in the following "Program Guide".



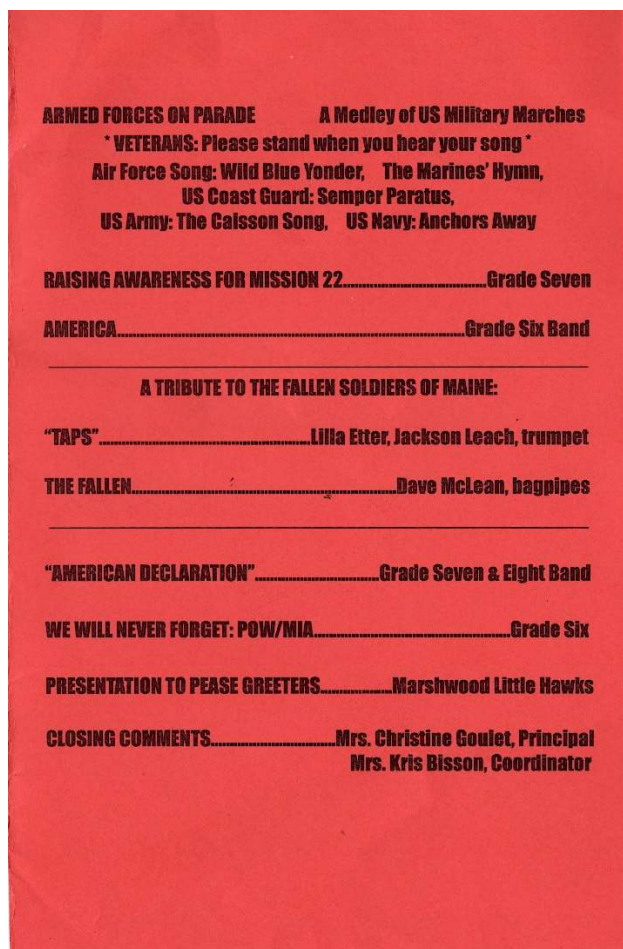
The impressive Eight Grade Flag Force



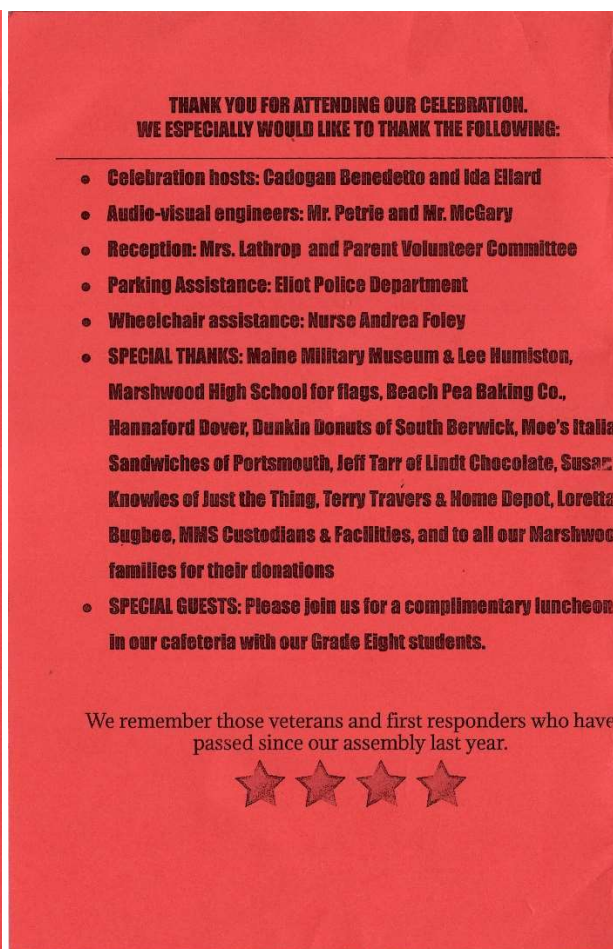
Front Cover of the *Program Guide*



First Page of the *Program Guide*



Second Page of the *Program Guide*



Back Page of the *Program Guide*

A moving short film clip by [The Sound Tank](#) titled *"I Fought for You"* noted scenes from World War II and veteran attendees relating to their participation in that war; and later indicating to their family members with them "I fought for you"!



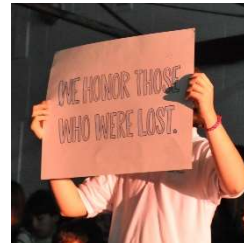
Principle Christine Goulet provided welcome comments.



Superintendent John Coverty recognized those involved with the program and read the poem most associated with the Buddy Poppy *"In Flanders Fields"* by John McCrea.

The Eighth Graders read an *“Open Letter to Veterans, Active Military, and First Responders: 10 Things We’ve Been Meaning to Say to You”*. Students scattered about the bleachers hold title placards when the students at the podium read the each’s narrative. The 10 things:

- 1) Your determination is empowering and inspiring.
- 2) You are human.
- 3) You are a reminder of what is possible.
- 4) We trust you.
- 5) We respect you for what you’ve given to us.
- 6) Your sacrifices are not forgotten.
- 7) We see you.
- 8) We are grateful to your families.
- 9) We empathize with you.
- 10) We honor those who were lost.



The Marshwood “Little Hawks” football team captains presented a \$600 check from a fundraiser to the Pease Greeters. Barry Kray accepted the check on their behalf.

Honored Guests were later treated to a meal in the school’s cafeteria.



Post 5744 members included Eugene Cheney, Roger Guptil, Brian English, Hank Hanson, Barry Kray, John Denning, Bruce Brown, Mal Kenney, and Nick Tsakaris (pictured); Jeff Chase, and Mike St. Pierre (not pictured).

Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

November 5, 2024: VFW Post 5744 operated a Concession Stand and Recruiting Booth outside the Town of South Berwick's "Polling Place" (South Berwick Central School). Offerings included baked muffins, apple cider donuts, warm pretzels, steamed hot dogs, and corn chowder, as well as coffee, hot apple cider, and cold beverages.



VFW Concession Stand and Recruiting Booth



Thanks to Shelly Landry for the corn chowder – it was a hit!



Our newest offering: steamed hot dogs was very popular!

Thanks to Jeff Chase, Barry Kray, Malcolm Kenney, Marc Schelle, Shelley Landry, and Mike St. Pierre for making this fundraising effort possible!

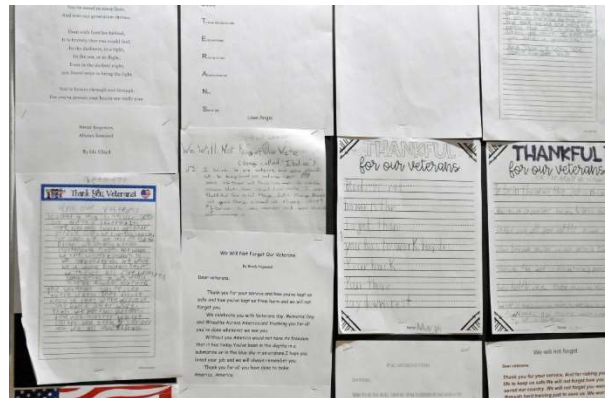
Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

November 7, 2024: Members of VFW Post 5744, along with other veterans, active-duty military, and guests, at the invitation of school and program administrators, attended Marshwood Great Works School's Veterans Day Assembly.



Roger Guptill, Marc Scheele, Jeff Chase, and Barry Kray at the entrance to the gymnasium before the assembly started.

Several display boards off to the side posted "*Letters to Veterans*" – most were letters of thanks for your service.



The program began with the posting of the colors. The VFW Post 5744 Color Guard (Jeff with the United States flag and Marc with the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US flag) posted the colors to either side of the student choir.

Amilia and Eleanor Simpson then led the *Pledge of Allegiance*.



The MGWS 4th and 5th Grade Chorus, directed by Janice Marro, sang "*The Star-Spangled Banner*"



Principal Jerry Burnelle welcomed everybody to the assembly and gave opening comments.

Mrs. Morse's 5th Grade Class read the book *America's White Table*, by Margot Theis Raven, and assembled a table at the head of the assembly.



Based on *The Missing Man Table*, *America's White Table* tells the POW story of Uncle John and his cell mate Mike. The story was purposefully not based on any one particular story, but rather was compiled from different service members' acts of heroism during the Vietnam War. This choice was made to allow *America's White Table* to represent every branch of the military, and to be a universal sign of brotherhood for all MIAs and POWs.



America's White Table (a.k.a. Missing Man Table, Forgotten Comrade Table)



The MGWS 5th Grade Band, directed by Matt Taylor, performed *America*



Ten student representatives of the student body then read their essays: "Veterans, this is why we honor you".

← Student Eva B.

Student Julia H. →



Sailors from the USS Cheyenne (SSN-773), a Los Angeles Class submarine presently stationed at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, were on hand to talk to the students and to answer questions.





Q: How long do you stay in a submarine?

A: Longest time underwater was 119 days;
the longest time at sea was 6 months

Q: What was your most interesting thing?

A: The total darkness at sea; the intensity of the
night stars; the lack of a day/night cycle

Q: Is there ice cream on board?

A: Yes – One sailor’s favorite was caramel (made
by mixing soy sauce into vanilla ice cream!)

The MGWS 5th Grade Chorus sang the traditional “A Tribute to the Armed Services”, with honored veterans and active-duty military standing for their respective branch of service.



Veteran
and active-
duty Army
←

Veteran
and active-
duty Navy
→



The VFW Post 5744 Color Guard retired the colors at the conclusion of the assembly.

Note to any who has never been to such a student assembly: 1) it is a truly humbling experience, 2) it is important that we continue to support such undertakings to help ensure they continue indefinitely!

Veterans, active-duty military, and their families were invited to a breakfast reception in the cafeteria following the assembly!

Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

November 9, 2024: 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. Fifteen Post members and five (auxiliary members) contributed to this effort.



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



The VFW sign with Buddy Poppy illustration and “Wear it Proudly” inscription identifies the toll booth’s purpose.



The Remember Them Theme Sign with Buddy Poppy.



The support table (canopy) was manned by Malcolm Kenney, Barry Kray, Pastor Bruce Brown, and Roger Guptill. Commander Jeff Chase manned the Refreshment Table. Malcolm Kenney taxied cash transfers. Mike Murray helped with set-up and tear-down.

Scenes from the “Toll Booth”:



Mike Murray



Gary Imbrie



Mike Bates



Hank Hansen



Marc Schelle



Gary Imbrie



Mal Kenney



Hank Hansen



Mal Kenney



Dan Kenney/Gary Imbrie



Hank Hansen



Dan Kenney

Not pictured: John Denning, John Bartlett, Jeff Chase, Mike St. Pierre.



Mike Bates



Shelley Landry



Shelley Landry



Bruce Brown/Gary Imbrie



Gary Imbrie/Dan Kenney



John Bartlett/Mal Kenney



Money sorters/counters: Dawn Chase, Debbie Zagroski, Sally Ann Kenney, Julie Murray, June Guptill

Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

November 11, 2025: South Berwick Memorial VFW Post 5744 and the Town of South Berwick provided a Veterans Day Observance at the South Berwick Town Hall. The event was attended by members of the post, town hall administrators, active-duty members of the USS Washington (SSN-787), Marshwood Great Works School (MGWS) students, Girl Scout Troup 1306, local first responders, other veterans, and local citizens.

Post 5744 Commander Jeffrey Chase was Master of Ceremonies. After his introductions, the AL/VFW Color Guard posted the colors.



← Daniel and Steven Dix posted the colors; the United States flag on the right and the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States flag the left.

Max Meade, a 4th grade student at MGWS, led those assembled in the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

Max Meade →



Ms. Savannah Cook

Ms. Savannah Cook beautifully sang *The Star-Spangled Banner*.

Chaplain Bruce Brown provided an opening prayer. Max Meade returned to the podium to read his essay *Veterans; this is why we honor you*. Commander Chase then provided a quick summary of how Veteran's Day came to be, and what it should mean to all of us.



Commander Chase then introduced the event's Guest Speaker: Senior Chief Austin Gilbert, Chief-of-the Boat (COB) for the USS Washington. The USS Washington is a Virginia Class nuclear-powered attack submarine that just began a three-year refurbishment tour at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNSY).

MMNCS Austin Gilbert →

Senior Chief Gilbert gave a humorous account of his beginnings in the United States Navy as a 17-year-old; he noted that he was hoping to become an aviation mechanic, but that in his wisdom the navy's placement officer determined he would be a submarine machinist mate (marine mechanic). He noted how he had to prove himself throughout his progression through the enlisted ranks, and how his work was indeed meaningful and important to our national security. He cautioned about asking a submariner to tell a story as that might involve a lengthy time commitment, as most have plenty of "back in my day" stories to tell. He noted that every veteran has played a role in our safeguarding, and that all veterans are deserving of our respect.



The observance wrapped up with the Post 5744 Honor Guard providing a three-volley gun salute (outdoors), Past Post Commander Malcolm Kenney offering closing notes, the Color Guard retiring the colors, and Chaplain Brown offering a closing prayer.

The 4th grade students from MGWS have graciously provided "goodie bags" for the attendees.



Approximately 60 were in attendance for this Veterans Day Observance

The following were in attendance:



Maurice Cote
CDR CWV



Brian English
CDR AL Post 79

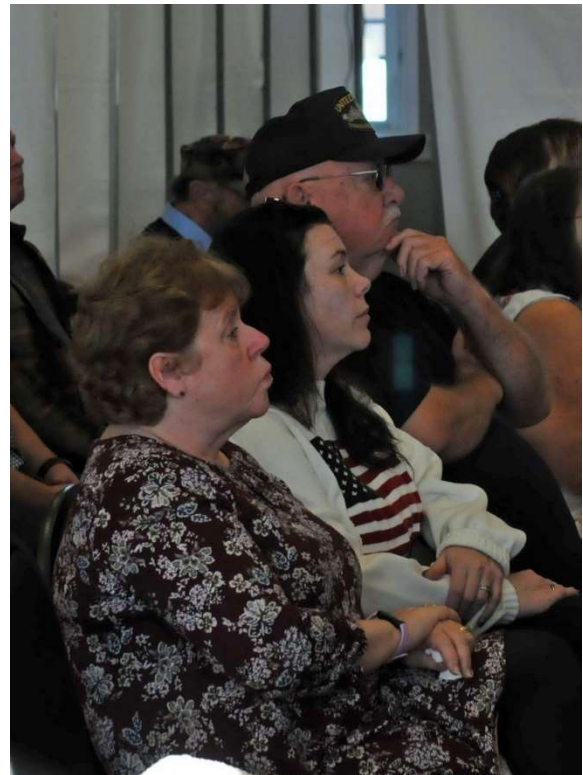


Phil Janks
Adjutant AL Post 79



Myron Crossley, V-CDR AL NH, and Don, AL Post 47 / Legion Riders

South Berwick Veteran Mike Rice with his wife Deborah and daughter Katie



Post 5744's Gary Imbrie with friend Veteran Roger Sevigny



Post 5744's Roger Guptill and Marc Scheele are next to Arthur and Donna Gilbert (COB Gilbert's parents), MMNCS Austin Gilbert and MMNCS Dan Passmore, also from the USS Washington (SSN-787).



November 14, 2024: VFW Post 5744 mustered at South Berwick's Community Center for a regular meeting.

Minutes of Regular Meeting 11-14-24

18 Members Present



Commander – Jeffrey Chase

Senior Vice Commander – Barry Kray

Junior Vice Commander – Michael Murray

Quartermaster – Marc Scheele

Historian – Michael St. Pierre

Adjutant – Brent Roets

Chaplain – Bruce Brown

Service Officer – Shelley Landry

Assistant SO – Daniel Kenney

Adjutant, Brent Roets, had an excused absence

**Minutes transcribed from recording.

Opening:

1730 Meeting called to order by CDR Jeff Chase, as per VFW Ritual.

We rose for *Pledge of Allegiance*.

Opening prayer by Chaplain Pastor Bruce Brown.

Introduction of Post guests:

Break for meal

Resumed business meeting.

CDR Jeff Chase →



Marc Scheele

Post Minutes:

1. Upon motion by and seconded by Post members, it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes of the Post meeting held on 10/15/24.

Post Quartermaster's Report:

1. Quartermaster Marc Scheele gave his Financial Report for the month ending 10/31/24. Upon motion by and seconded by Post members, it was unanimously voted to accept the Quartermaster's Financial Report, subject to audit.

Service Officer's Report:

S.O. Landry →

1. Service Officer Shelly Landry noted that several members were experiencing medical issues. For more information, or for how you can help, please contact Shelley.
2. Shelly also brought forth a “snacks basket” as a possible replacement for the “fruit basket”



gondolas we presently deliver to sick or injured members. The basket, pictured left, included: gourmet pistachios, wafer cookies, maple fudge, jumbo olives, hot-chocolate mix, and various chocolate treats. The idea was well received.



New Members Report:

1. Not recorded.

Membership Committee Report:

1. Not recorded.

Social Media Committee Report:

1. Historian Mike St. Pierre reported that VFW (National) has a web platform that would serve us well. He noted that VFW (National) offers a “Start-up Grant” for such endeavor, but that pursuing such would require acceptance by the Post. Upon a motion by Post Historian Mike St. Pierre, seconded by a Post member, it was unanimously voted to apply for this VFW grant to establish our website.

Pease Greeter's Report:

1. Barry Kray provided an update on Pease Greeter activities. Anyone interested in joining the Pease Greeters should contact Barry or visit the Pease Greeter website.

Barry Kray, with Marc Scheele and Shelley Landry looking on →



Post Legislative Business:

1. There was discussion concerning a bill that could affect federal and state retirees and the social security benefits they receive (i.e. repeal of the windfall elimination provision).

Correspondence:

1. We received a thank you and a reminder from the North Berwick Christmas Project.

Old Business:

1. Nothing at this time.

New Business:

1. Our election day concession stand netted \$800.00 in sales and four potential new members.
2. Post member Bruce Burke passed away on 11/8/24. Services to be determined.
3. Our annual Poppy Toll was a success and raised \$7942.50.
4. We will pick up flags from Woodlawn and surrounding cemeteries on 11/16/24 at 0900.
5. We are requesting personnel to attend funeral services for Ed Willard (Coast Guard) at 1000 on 11/20/24 at Southern Maine Veteran's Cemetery. He passed on and has no living relatives.
6. On 11/20/24 at 1530 the Post will be at the York County Commissioner's Office to receive a spirit of America Volunteer Award.
7. On 12/5/24 we will be attending the plaquing ceremony for the USS Washington SSN787 at Tirante Tavern on Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. At the time of transcribing the ceremony has been moved to 12/10/24 at 1515.
8. We will be having our Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony on 12/7/24 at the Counting House in S/ Berwick at 0800.
9. We will conduct our annual 50/50 fundraiser at the conclusion of this 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 at the South Berwick Community Center on 12/12/24 at 1730.

Dates to Remember:

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

Closing Prayer:

Closing Prayer by Chaplain Pastor Bruce Brown.

Vote to Adjourn:

Upon motion by Commander Jeff Chase, seconded by Post member, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting 50/50 Drawing: \$23.00. Winner: Bary Kray

Free Meal Drawing: This drawing has been discontinued

Annual 50/50 Fundraiser Project

Malcolm Kenney and Jeff Chase drew winning numbers for the Annual 50/50 Fundraiser Project. The list of winners will be published after winners are confirmed.



Mal Kenney and Jeff Chase conduct the multi-prize 50/50 Fundraising drawing

Pictures by Mike St. Pierre, Historian.

November 16, 2024: Members of VFW Post 5744 mustered at Woodlawn Cemetery in South Berwick to retire the United States flags which were placed on veterans' graves in May. Other members went to Boyd Cemetery, Old Fields Burial Grounds (Vine Street Cemetery), Pleasant Hill Cemetery and Portland Station Cemetery to do the same.



← Mal Kenney



Jeff Chase→

← John Ford



The assembled group, after all flags were picked up: Mal Kenney, Mike Murray, Roger Guptill, Marc Scheele, John Ford, Dawn Chase, and Jeff Chase.

Not pictured: Mike 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 19, 2024: Members of VFW Post 5744 mustered at Southern Maine Veterans Cemetery in Springvale for full military honors internment ceremony for Post member Bruce Burke. Bruce was a 27-year veteran of the United States Air Force and a Life Member of the Post.



Several Post 5744 members were pallbearers where there were not enough family members strong enough to do this. Two United States Air Force personnel folded and presented the American flag to the veteran's family. The combined American Legion (AL) / VFW Honor Guard provided other military honors (salutes, three-volley gun salute, bugle "taps").

Post 5744 members present were: Jeff Chase, Barry Kray, Marc Scheele, Roger Guptill, John Elwell, Steven Dix, and Mike St. Pierre.

Bruce Burke Obituary:

Bruce L. Burke of Berwick, Maine passed away at the age of 83 on November 8, 2024, with family by his side at Wentworth-Douglass Hospital in Dover, New Hampshire. Bruce, who was diagnosed with cancer in June 2024, fought valiantly until the end.

Bruce was born on September 8, 1941, in Akron, Ohio, to Harold and Hilda Burke. Bruce graduated from Akron High School in 1959, where he was actively involved in many clubs such as theater, basketball, yearbook, and chemistry. Most importantly, during high school, he met the love of his life, Irene. Following his graduation from high school, Bruce attended the University of Akron, where he was a distinguished student of the Air Force R.O.T.C. and received a Bachelor of Arts in Education.

Following his graduation from college, Bruce bravely served his country in the United States Air Force. Bruce built a successful career in the Air Force serving in the Vietnam War, where he earned a Bronze Star Medal. Bruce retired in 1989 with the rank of Colonel after 26 years, one of his proudest career accomplishments. His last job in the military was as the base closing officer for the Pease Development Authority. In tandem with his service in the Air



Force, Bruce became an accomplished scholar, earning his Master of Science in Planning from the University of Tennessee and his Doctor of Public Administration from Nova University.

Bruce's greatest love in life was his wife, whom he married in 1962. Bruce and Irene went on to have two beautiful children, Lisa Anne and Kelly Ann.

In 2007, Bruce settled into a happy and peaceful retirement with his beloved wife. Bruce was known for going to bed early and rising early the next day to tend to his yard and his flowers, which he was tremendously proud of. Bruce had a deep love of lottery tickets, cheese puffs, afternoon naps, and a good glass of wine. He took pride in sharing the wonders of nature and the small victories of life with his loved ones, especially his grandchildren.

Married for 62 beautiful years, Bruce is survived by his wife, Irene; his two children, Lisa of Rockledge, Florida, and Kelly of Dover, New Hampshire; as well as his grandchildren Devon, Zeyna, Sophia, Ikram, and Leila. Bruce is also survived by his sister Irene, brother Edmund, and their spouses and children.

The funeral services will be privately held at the Southern Maine Veterans Cemetery in Springvale, Maine.

Pictures from Johnson Funeral Home

November 20, 2024: Members of VFW Post 5744, along with active and retired military personnel, other veterans' organizations, and first-response personnel mustered at Southern Maine Veterans Cemetery in Springvale for a military-honors internment ceremony for United States Coast Guard veteran Edward Willard.

Edward had no family; an acquaintance from The Village (Arundel, Kennebunk, Kennebunkport), Ms. Lisa Dobson, reached out to local veterans' organizations so as to give this veteran the send-off he deserves. Military honors were arranged by Sanford VFW Post 9935. Post 9935 reached out to neighboring American Legion (AL) and VFW Posts to give this brother-in-arms a proper send-off. Calls for support were also placed on social media (like Vet2Vet Maine) and on a radio station.

Veterans near and wide responded to the request, including various AL, American Veterans (AMVETS), Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association (CVMA), Catholic War Veterans (CWV), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Legion Riders, Marine Corps League (MCL), VFW, and Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) members, including some of their state- and district-level officers. A contingent from the USS North Dakota (SSN-784) attended. Several first responders (like State Troopers) attended, nearly 200 active-duty, first response, veterans, and civilians attended.

The Post 9935 "Honor Guard" posted the colors and provided a ceremonial three-volley gun salute. Active-duty United States Coast Guard personnel provided the flag-folding ritual and the bugler's "Taps". The CVMA provided additional colors.

Post 5744 was represented by Jeff Chase, Barry Kray, Roger Guptill, and Mike St. Pierre.

Edward Willard's Obituary:

Edward Willard

Aug. 08, 1940 ~ Oct. 16, 2024

Portland, ME – Edward Willard, aged 84, passed away on October 16, 2024.

A private graveside service will be held at the Southern Maine Veterans Cemetery.

Funeral arrangements and obituary by Conroy-Tully Walker Funeral Homes.

November 20, 2025: South Berwick Memorial VFW Post 5744 was presented a *Spirit of America Foundation Tribute* (Spirit of America Award) by the York County Commissioners at the York County Government Building in Alfred, Maine.

Mr. Gregory Zinser, County Manager, was Master of Ceremonies. Mr. Zinser noted that these tributes are nominated by the towns involved and presented by the York County Commissioners. This is the 7th year that these awards are presented by the Commissioners. He handed out each award after the District Commissioner read the recipient's nomination summary.



Mr. Richard Clark, County Commissioner for District 5 (Eliot, Kittery, Ogunquit, Wells, York) announced the awards for District 1 (Acton, Berwick, Cornish, Lebanon, Limington, Newfield, North Berwick, Parsonsfield, Shapleigh, South Berwick) recipients in Commissioner Robert Andrews absence.

Nominated by the Town of South Berwick, the afternoon's second award was presented to South Berwick Memorial VFW Post 5744. The nomination highlights included: "Where its members, at one point of their lives, gave up their lives in defense of our country and its values. That these folks give of their time to support, educate, and fundraise for numerous community causes, including scouts, youth sports, and veterans in need, to name a few. This organization's moto, by D. Fogarty, is "We may not have it together, but together we have is all". The award was accepted by Commander Jeff Chase.

Twenty Spirit of America Foundation Tributes were given in York County at this event. One other notable is Andy Buckman of Berwick, for his outstanding fundraising efforts which enables American Legion's *Charls S. Hatch Post 97* to support its many community and veterans' programs.



VFW Post 5744 Commander Jeff Chase, Quartermaster Marc Scheele, and Senior Vice Commander Barry Kray. (Missing: Historian Mike St. Pierre)



Post 5744's Spirit of America Award

Andy Buckman AL
Post 97 Berwick

Photos by Mike St. Pierre,
Historian



November 30, 2024: VFW Post 5744 operated a Concession Stand at South Berwick's "Home for the Holidays" festival at South Berwick Central School. Offerings were similar to past efforts, with new additions being chili and sausage with onions and peppers on a roll.



VFW Concession Stand (stock photo)



Our newest offering: Sausage with Peppers and Onions proved to be popular!

Thanks to Shelly Landry for also providing Chili!

Thanks to Jeff Chase, Dawn Chase, Barry Kray, and Marc Schelle for working this fundraiser!

Photo by Dawn Chase

December 7, 2024: VFW Post 5744, other veterans, and visitors gathered at the Counting House Park for National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, to honor and remember the more than 3,500 dead or wounded during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.



Post Commander Jeffrey Chase (pictured left with Chaplain Brown) noted that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) encourages all Americans to pause and reflect on the attack 83 years ago that changed the course of history and brought together the nation to defend our sovereignty,

confront tyranny and win back freedom around the world. While it was a day of immense tragedy, it would also become a day which showcased America's unbreakable spirit. The attack has come to stand as a testament to future generations that while our homeland may be attacked, our enemies will never defeat our republic or our way of life.

The ceremony included presentation of the colors by member Paul Lapierre (pictured right); the offering of prayer by Chaplain "Pastor" Bruce Brown; the



tossing of a ceremonial wreath into the flowing water of the Salmon Falls River by Judge Advocate Malcolm Kenney (pictured left); execution of a three-volley gun salute by the combined American Legion / VFW Honor Guard; and the playing of "Taps" by VFW bugler Frank Puopolo.



Bugler Frank Puopolo (background) sounds “Taps” while members of the Honor Guard (Mike Post, Gretchen Farwell, Mike Murray, Dan Dix, and Dennis Ouellette; John Elwell being just out of the frame) stand at “Present Arms”.



Some of those who braved the cold to honor those who perished!

Photos by Hank Hansen

December 10, 2024: Members of South Berwick's Administration, Town Council, Police, and Fire Departments, and VFW Post 5744 were invited to attend the Plaque Hanging Ceremony for the USS Washington (SSN 787) in the Tirante Tavern Restaurant and Bar at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNSY), as South Berwick is the host community for the crew.

The Plaque Hanging Ceremony commemorates the official start of their scheduled maintenance period at the shipyard, which is projected to take 2 ½ years. The Shipyard's Chapter of the Naval Civilian Managers Association hosted the ceremony.



There were several speakers including Shipyard Commander Captain Michael Oberdorf (pictured left), USS Washington's Commanding Officer Keith Turnball (pictured right), Malcolm Kenney from VFW Post 5744 (pictured below right), Town Manager Tim Pellerin, and Town Council Chair Mallory Cook (pictured below left). From these speakers we learned that this is the 3rd version of the Washington, and that it was commissioned on October 7, 2017. Its home port is Naval Station Norfolk (VA).



Malcolm Kenney and South Berwick Town Manager Timothy Pellerin welcomed the officers, crew, and families of the ship and gave thanks for their service and commitment. Their sacrifices ensure we get to live our everyday lives how we choose. The Town of South

Berwick will always remember the USS Washington and their time spent in our community.



The motto of the vessel is “Preserving Peace, Prepared for War.” This is derived from a quote by George Washington, “To be prepared for war is one of the most effective means of preserving peace.”



Hanging the plaque: Capt. Michael Oberdorf, unidentified, CO Keith Turnball, Town Manager Tim Pellerin, Town Council Chair Mallory Cook, VFW CDR Jeff Chase, unidentified.



The crest contains images including Mount Rainier, the Seattle skyline, evergreen trees, and silhouettes of the two previous USS Washingtons. The central image is of the submarine, coming forth from the waters of the Puget Sound. The paint scheme is of local Native American art depicting an orca, the state’s official marine mammal. Along the top of the state border, six hollow stars represent previous naval vessels names for George Washington with two solid-gold stars representing the previous ships named for the state of Washington.

At the bottom of the plaque, silver and gold submarine dolphins representing the enlisted and officer Submarine Warfare insignia, respectively, sit atop a block of battleship armor plating. Set behind the state is a ring adorned with the official Washington state tartan colored green (for the evergreen forests), blue (for the lakes, rivers, and ocean), white (for the snow-capped mountains), red (for the apple and cherry crops), yellow (for the wheat and grain crops), and black (for the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens).

The battle cry “Fear the Blackfish” came from the Pacific Northwest Native Americans who called Orcas, more commonly known as killer whales, blackfish. This led to the crew unofficially referring to the USS Washington as “The Blackfish” and gave rise to the battle cry.

The event was well attended by naval personnel and civilian workers. South Berwick House of Pizza provided several cheese pizzas for the event; Fogarty’s Restaurant & Bakery provided a few cheesecakes for dessert; and Woodland Farms Brewery provided refreshments.



Picture of the banner on the front of the podium. This same banner appears at the South Berwick Town Hall.

Credit is given to the Town of South Berwick (website) for this article and for the pictures herein.

December 12, 2024: VFW Post 5744 mustered at the South Berwick Community Center for a regular meeting.



Minutes of Regular Meeting on 12-12-24

15 Members Present

Commander Jeffrey Chase

Adjutant Brent Roets

Senior Vice Commander Barry Kray

Chaplain Bruce Brown

Junior Vice Commander Michael Murray

Service Officer Shelley Landry

Quartermaster Marc Scheele

Assistant SO Daniel Kenney

Historian Michael St. Pierre

Adjutant Brent Roets, Senior Vice Commander Barry Kray, Chaplain Bruce Brown, Historian Michael St. Pierre were absent (excused).

****Minutes transcribed from a recording**



Our community center meeting room was festively decorated in preparation for Christmas Holiday activities!

Opening:

1730: Meeting called to order by Commander Jeff Chase, as per VFW Ritual

- We Rose for Pledge of Allegiance
- Opening Prayer by Hank Hansen
- Introduction of guests

Break for dinner; resume business meeting later

Minutes:

1. Upon motion made by Malcom Kenney and seconded by Steve Shea, it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes of the Post Meeting held on 11/14/24.
 - a. Discussions were held on missed portions due to not having been recorded.

Quartermaster's Report:

1. QM Marc Scheele gave his Financial Report for the month ending 11/30/24. Upon motion made by Hank Hansen and seconded by Steve Dix, it was unanimously voted to accept Marc's report, subject to audit.

Marc Scheele preparing 50/50 raffle tickets prior to the meeting →



Service Officer's Report:

1. SO Shelley Landry reported that we have 19 comfort baskets to deliver, and that help would be needed to deliver them. Contact Shelley or Marc Scheele to assist.

Shelley Landry delivers her report as Paul Rollins and Mal Kenney look on →



2. Historian Michael St. Pierre has a broken foot.
3. Dennis Ouellette, Jim Courier, and Thomas Joyce all have medical issues.
4. Chaplain Brice Brown is sick.

← Assistant SO Daniel Kenney arranges the comfort baskets prior to the meeting

New Members Report:

1. Three personnel are in the process of being evaluated and an additional two will be voted on tonight.



Membership Committee Report:

1. The Membership Committee (Roger Guptill, Mike Murray, Jeff Chase) reported that there are two prospective new members:

← Roger Guptill as Chairman
of the Membership Committee

- a. Upon motion made by Mike Murray and seconded by Jeff Chase, the Membership Committee unanimously voted to recommend the acceptance of Richard Casimiro as a new Annual Member and Brian Poirier as a new Life Member.
- b. Upon motion made by Hank Hansen and seconded by Marc Scheele, it was unanimously voted to accept into the Post Richard Casimiro as a new Annual Member and Brian Poirier as a new Life Member.

Social Media Committee Report:

1. CDR Chase indicated that the websites were being worked on and updated.

Pease Greeter's Report:

1. CDR Chase noted that the Pease Greeters donated some items to the USS Washington.
2. Also, the Pease Greeters will be working with Scouts BSA Troop 180 to help prepare "flag stars" to hand out.

Legislative Business:

1. There was discussion regarding the upcoming votes for the *Social Security Fairness Act* which would eliminate the *Government Pension Offset* and the *Windfall Elimination Provision*.

Correspondence:

1. On 11/20/24 York County Commissioners Office bestowed upon the Post the *American Spirit Award*.

Old Business:

1. New Post member Brian Poirier was presented with his ball cap.

2. The Post signed up for the annual cemetery cleanup with Liberty Mutual. It will take place on 4/28/25. Time, date, and location will be verified at a later meeting, once they confirm.
3. The Post had the District *Voice of Democracy* winner this year who will move on to the state level competition on 1/18/25.

Brian Poirier sporting his new Post ball cap→



New Business:

1. Our Home for the Holidays concession resulted in a good profit.
2. On 12/10/24 a plaquing ceremony for the USS Washington SSN787 was held at Tirante Tavern on Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. It was a huge success with over 60 personnel in attendance.
3. There will be a meet and greet for the USS Washington tentatively scheduled for 1/23/25 at the South Berwick Community Center from 1500 – 1700. The event is open to the public and flyers will be posted.
4. Discussion was held on future events with the USS Washington to include something for the spouses of the service members.
5. Discussion was had on increasing the Post scholarship to \$1000.00 for this year. Information and approvals will be sent/sought via email to the EXBOD.
6. Discussion was held on naming the scholarship fund for former Historian, Robert “Gabby” Place.
7. We will be presenting Post scholarships to recipients at 1230 on 12/29/24 at the American Legion Post 47 Hall in Rollinsford.

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 1/9/25 at 1730 at the South Berwick Community Center.**

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:

Closing Prayer by Hank Hansen.

Vote to Adjourn:

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

Post 50/50 Drawing: Not recorded.

ADDENDUM:

Results from the 50/50 Multi-Draw Raffle Fundraiser which were drawn at the November 14th Meeting (14 prizes):

\$500 – Debbie Zagrosky

\$300 – Malcolm Kenney

\$200 – Joel Hilton, Jim Currier

\$150 – Sue Roberge, Dawn Chase, Billy Dame, Allan Patterson, Ed Turcotte,
John Ford

\$100 – Mike Schofield, Johnson Funeral Home, Carlton Spring, Cheryl
Harmon

December 29, 2024: Members, family and guests of VFW Post 5744 and American Legion (AL) Post 47 – Rollinsford gathered at the Post 47 Hall on Foundry Street in Rollinsford to honor educational scholarship recipients.

Both posts offer scholarships to the children and grandchildren of area veterans. CDR Jeffrey Chase and QM Marc Scheele of VFW Post 5744 issued scholarships to: Ms. Ivy Landry, the daughter of VFW SO Shelley Landry – Ivy is studying at Gordon College; Mr. Jeffrey Norton, the grandson of VFW Jr Vice CDR Michael Murray – Jeffrey is studying at Ohio University; Mr. Garrett Doucette, the grandson of VFW Surgeon Roger Guptill – Garrett is studying at Wentworth Institute. Each received a \$1,000 award.



QM Marc Schelle, Ivy Landry, Garrett Doucette, Jeffrey Norton, CDR Jeff Chase

Vice Commander Myron Crossley (2nd from right) of AL Post 47 additionally handed out scholarships – five in all, one being to Ms. Landry (3rd from left).



Ivy Landry/Myron Crosley



Shelly Landry, Collin Landry, Ivy Landry



This part of the audience includes Shelly Landry with her daughter Alyse, and Mike and Julie Murray with Jeffrey Norton. Alyse Landry turned out to be the VFW District 11 2024-2025 *Voice of Democracy* winner.



Hank Hansen watched the presentations; He is consistently an involved member.

Photos provided by AL Post 47

January 09, 2025: VFW Post 5744 mustered at the South Berwick Community Center for a regular meeting



Minutes of Regular Meeting on 1-9-25

16 Members Present plus 2 Guests: Department of Maine Junior Vice Commander Bill Day and District 11 Commander Michael McInnis

Commander – Jeffrey Chase	Adjutant – Brent Roets
Senior Vice Commander – Barry Kray	Chaplain – Bruce Brown
Junior Vice Commander – Michael Murray	Service Officer – Shelley Landry
Quartermaster – Marc Scheele	Assistant SO – Daniel Kenney
Historian – Michael St. Pierre	

Adjutant Brent Roets was absent (excused)
**Minutes transcribed from recording

Opening:

1730: Meeting called to order by **CDR Jeff Chase** (pictured at right), as per VFW Ritual.

- We Rose for Pledge of Allegiance.
- Opening Prayer by Chaplain Brown.

Adjourned for Dinner; resumed meeting after dinner



Minutes:

1. Upon motion made by Michael Murray and seconded by Hank Hansen, it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes of the Post meeting held on 12/12/24.

Quartermaster's Report:

1. QM Scheele gave his Financial Report for the month ending 12/31/24. Upon motion made by Malcolm Kenney and seconded by Hank Hansen, it was unanimously voted to accept the QM's financial report, subject to audit.

Service Officer's Report:

1. **Shelley Landry** (pictured at right), Daniel Kenney, Marc Scheele, and Mal Kenney reported that they



visited over 12 members who are either homebound or who have medical issues. These included: Jim Courier, Ed Hagan, Tom Joyce, Ernie Wood, Mike St. Pierre, Tony Cincotta, Sal Ramsey, Freeman Lane, and others.

New Members Report:

1. Roger Guptill reported that one new member would be voted on tonight.

Membership Committee Report:

1. The Membership Committee (Roger Guptill, Mike Murray, Bruce Brown, and Jeffrey Chase) voted to recommend to the full Post the acceptance of Kerri Henchey as a new Annual Member.
2. Upon motion made by Malcolm Kenney, and seconded by Nick Henchey, it was unanimously voted to accept Kerri Henchey as a new Annual Member.

Social Media Committee Report:

1. Mike St. Pierre reported that the new website was under development. Contact Mike for more detailed information.

Pease Greeter's Report:

1. Bary Kray reported that the Pease Greeters are active and busy; there were 196 flights in 2024.

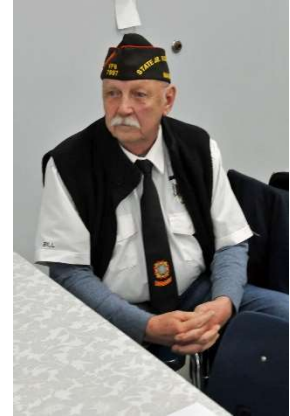
Honor Guard Recap:

1. Mike Murray (pictured at right) provided a summary of the Honor Guard activity for 2024. *“Currently there are 13 members in our combined VFW / AL Post 79 Honor Guard. Seven are VFW Post 5744 members, including our Captain / Armorer Dennis Ouelette, Commander Tony Cincotta, Commander John Elwell, live bugler Frank Puopolo, Stanley Sheldon, Steve Dix and myself. One member from the AL Post is a woman. In 2024 the Honor Guard presented at 43 events – 39 for veteran funeral honors. Events occurred throughout York County, including the Southern Maine Memorial Veterans Cemetery (Springvale), and in several eastern New Hampshire communities, including the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery (Boscawen).”*



Legislative Business:

1. There were discussions regarding the *Social Security Fairness Act* and the *Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act*. **Department Junior Vice Commander Bill Day** (pictured at right) listens to the discussions.



Correspondence:

1. We received a “Thank you” from Sylvio Ramsey for the visit and gift basket.

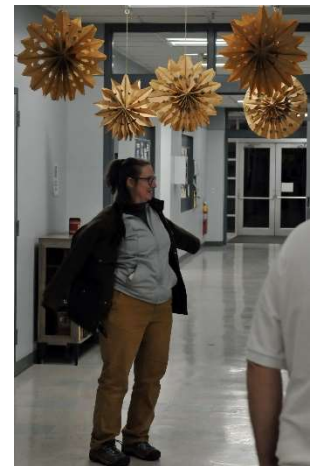
Old Business:

1. Discussion on funding our scholarship fund with our investment funds. Information is to be sent out to the Scholarship Committee and Budget Committee to work through the details. Main discussion was tabled until a more detailed plan is set forth.
2. Discussion on the new South Berwick traffic light (2026) and its impact on our Poppy Drive. We were assured we would have a spot, but we are unsure of exactly where that spot will be.
3. There will be a meet and greet for the crew of the USS Washington on 1/23/25 at the South Berwick Community Center from 1500 – 1700. The event will be open to the public and flyers will be posted.
4. Thank you to Hank Hansen for revitalizing the Post emblem for our new podium.



New Business:

1. **District 11 CDR Michael McInnis** (pictured at left) offered some critique of our meeting and offered some pointers.
2. A special “Thank You” was extended to **Dawn Chase** (pictured at right) for her assistance in serving our meal.



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 2/13/25 at 1730 at the South Berwick Community Center.**

Dates to Remember:

1. Honor Guard practices are the first Monday of the month at 1830.
The Honor Guard needs more members – contact Dennis Ouellette for information or to join.

Closing Prayer:

Closing Prayer by Chaplain Brown.

Vote to Adjourn:

1920: Upon motion made CDR Chase and seconded by a member, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.

Post 50/50 Drawing:

\$25 winner: Not acknowledged on the recording (0885).



Brian Poirrier, John Dennett (back to), Paul Rollins, Bill Day, Nick Henchley (back to), and Mal Kenney observing the proceedings.

Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

January 18, 2025: Select members of VFW Post 5744 attended the VFW Department of Maine meeting at the Waterville VFW Post 1285 hall. All state officers presented their reports, and several Posts were cited for exceptional activities and for meeting or exceeding membership goals.



Department of Maine Commander Anthony Kimble (at podium) and his executive board members (no order) including Senior Vice Commander Amy Meuchel, Junior Vice Commander William Day, Adjutant Carl Lambert, Quartermaster David Williams, Judge Advocate Roger Stevens, Surgeon James Ewing, Chaplain Kevin Woodward, Immediate Past Commander John Bouchard, Chief-of-Staff Stephen SanPedro, and Inspector Danforth Saucier. Other elected and appointed members were scattered around the room.



CDR Kimble addresses the gathering.

The Color Guard, led by Color Guard Captain Arthur Rocray, posted the colors.





Chaplain Kevin Woodward gives and invocation.

Mal Kenney, Roger Guptil and CDR Jeff Chase watch the proceedings.



District 11 Commander Michael McInnis, while providing his report, motions to the attendees of Post 5744 while noting the outstanding devotion this post has to veterans. He noted the four post members in attendance and cited the post's ongoing participation with the Pease Greeters.

CDR Kimble later presented Post 5744 with a Certificate of Appreciation for attaining 100% and then 102% Membership. Post CDR Jeff Chace accepted these two certificates.





Several other Posts received membership recognition. Here is a group picture of recipients with State of Maine CDR Kimball on the left end and State of Pennsylvania National Council Member Glenn Umberger, Jr. on the right end. Post 5744 CDR Chase is second from the left.



Department of Pennsylvania National Council Member Glenn Umberger, Jr. gave a keynote address. He complimented Post 5744 for a high national placement with regards to membership. He noted that the VFW has generally been losing members through attrition while the number of veterans who qualify for VFW membership has been decreasing. He talked about the need to better “market” the VFW to keep it recognized as a voice of authority for Veterans causes.

Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

January 18, 2025: Members of VFW Post 5744 attended the annual VFW – Department of Maine – *Voice of Democracy, Patriot Pen, and Teacher of the Year Awards Banquet*, which was held at the Winslow VFW Post 8835 Banquet & Convention Center. We were there to support the two District 11 candidates, one of whom was from Post 5744.



Masters of Ceremonies were Chairpersons Roger Stevens (Dept. of Maine) and Natascha Minze (Dept. of Maine – Auxiliary). They started by introducing the VOD and PP District winners.

District 11 VOD winner, Alyse Landry, was escorted by District 11 CDR Mike McInnis.



District 11 PP winner, Calvin Sheehan-Kopp, was escorted by Helen McInnis (District 11 Auxiliary).



The following were there to support District 11 winners: Post 5744 CDR Jeff Chase, Alyse

Landry's family (sister Ivy, father Colin, and mother Shelley), Roger Guptill, and Mal Kenney.

Calvin Sheehan-Kopp's family was also present.



Department Chaplain Kevin Woodward provided an invocation. Auxiliary Member Gwen Basinger sang the National Anthem. Department Chief-of-Staff Steven SanPedro led the Pledge of Allegiance.

After dinner, the *Teacher of the Year* winners were introduced. The Grades 6-8 (Middle School) recipient was Ms. Sarah Vail, Edna Drinkwater School, Northport Maine. The Grades 9-12 (High School) recipient was Mr. Jonathan Carsley, Buckfield Junior-Senior High School, Buckfield, Maine.



The *Patriot Pen* winners were then called out and presented with VFW Certificates of Accomplishment and a cash prize. The District 11 recipient, Calvin Sheehan-Kopp, is pictured at left with National Council Member Glenn Umberger, Jr., the Scholarship Chairs, and Department CDR Anthony Kimball. This year's winner was Kyle Neleski from District 4.

All *Patriot Pen* winners are pictured with National Council Member Umberger (left), Scholarship Chairs (back), and Department CDR Kimball (right).



The *Voice of Democracy* winners were then called out and presented with VFW Certificates of Accomplishment and a cash award. The District 11 recipient, Alyse Landry, is pictured at left with National Council Member Umberger, the Scholarship Chair, and Department CDR Kimball. This year's winner was Daisy Swett from District 9.

The *Voice of Democracy* winners are pictured with National Council Member Umberger (left), Scholarship Chair (back), and Department CDR Kimball (back right)



There was a cake cutting ceremony (pictured left), Department Commander's comments, Auxiliary President's comments, Department National Council Member's comments, and a keynote address by Department of Pennsylvania National Council Member Umberger.



The ceremony concluded with the waiving of a giant American Flag

Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

January 23, 2025: Crew members of the USS Washington (SSN 787) were officially “welcomed” to South Berwick, their host community, at a public event sponsored by the Town of South Berwick and South Berwick Memorial VFW Post 5744. This “Meet and Greet” was held at the Community Center of South Berwick, Maine.

Two dozen “submariners” from the USS Washington were greeted by town staff members, members of VFW Post 5744, and dozens of residents who took the opportunity to socialize with the crew. Jeffrey Chase (right), commander of VFW Post 5744, acted as Master of Ceremonies.



Tim Pellerin (left), Town Manager, introduced key town staff, including: Council Chair Mallory Cook, Police Chief David Ruger, Fire Chief Nick Hamel, Public Works Director Jay Redimarker, Recreation Director Nicole Drake, and Library Director Lee Shaw.

LCDR Rob Graham (right), the USS Washington’s Executive Officer (XO), provided information about the ship and had members of the crew introduce themselves.



A view of those assembled. For the most part, the sub crew is on the left, town officials are spread out on the right, and VFW members and residents are interspersed throughout.



All were treated to a light lunch after the introductions were complete. The sub's crew went first.

American Legion
Post 47 – Rollinsford
1st Vice CDR Myron
Crosley (right)
invited the sailors to
join Post 47.



VFW Sr. Vice CDR Barry Kray (left)
spoke about the role of the Pease Greeters and invited
members of the Washington to join them.



Jordan Kelley (left), Executive
Director for Great Works Land Trust
Provided information on the many
walking, hiking and snowshoeing
trails that are open to the public
throughout the area.



Mallory Cook (left), Council Chair, welcomed all to
the town and gave highlights of the dining, spiritual,
and recreational offerings in the area.



Mal Kenney (right) spoke of the
struggles the VFW is facing due
to age attrition and the shrinking
base of those qualified for its
ranks. He did note that many on
the Washington are qualified and
invited those to join our ranks.



Lee Shaw (left), Library Director, invited every sailor and
their families to make full use of the South Berwick
Library, including its resources and the programs they
offer for all ages.



Capt. Keith Turnbull, the Washington's (CO), along with LCDR Rob Graham, and MMNCS Austin Gilbert, the Washington's (COB) presented a plaque containing the Washington's emblem to Tim Pellerin and Mallory Cook.

Besides those identified above, the following are other submariners we met:



FTC Bill Prebis



RMCS Will Lieber



RMC Josh Waymier



TMC Nicole Jordan



MMAC Tony Horan



STS Zach Hubert



YNSC Genice Rahim



ETVCS Ken Zborowski



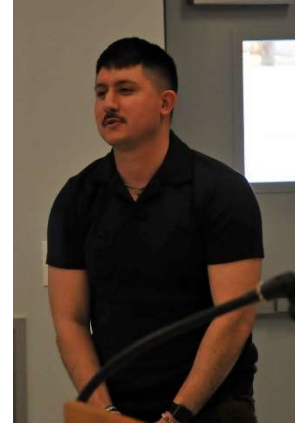
ENS Mica Zell



MMNCS Dan Passmore



ISC Justin Mozingo



LT Arthur Valliere

Here are additional pictures of the gathering:



Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

Rank and Rate Appendix:

CDR	Commander: CDR is a senior commissioned officer rank
CO	Commanding Officer: the CO is the senior officer on a U.S. Submarine
COB	Chief-of-the-Boat: the COB is the highest-ranking NCO on a U.S. Submarine.
ENS	Ensign: ENS is the lowest commissioned officer rank
ETVCS	Electronics Technician Senior Chief Petty Officer
FTC	Fire Control Technician Chief Petty Officer
ISC	Intelligence Specialist Chief Petty Officer
LCDR	Lieutenant Commander; LCDR is a senior commissioned officer rank
LT	Lieutenant: LT is a mid-grade commissioned officer rank
MMAC	Machinist Mate Auxiliary Chief Petty Officer (non-nuclear)
MMNCS	Machinist Mate Nuclear Senior Chief Petty Officer
NCO	Non-Commissioned Officer
PO	Petty Officer: PO is a non-commissioned officer (NCO) rank
STS	Sonar Technician Submarines
RMC	Radioman Chief Petty Officer
RMCS	Radioman Senior Chief Petty Officer
TMC	Torpedoman's Mate Chief Petty Officer
YNSC	Yeoman Senior Chief Petty Officer
XO	Executive Officer: the XO is the second-in-command on a U.S. Submarine

February 25, 2025: Post 5744 held an improvised “Breakfast Social” at Mainely Local Yokes in Berwick. Members gathered for information sharing, camaraderie, and a “damn fine breakfast”!



Clockwise: Steve Dix, Mal Kenney, Mike St. Pierre, Joyce St. Pierre, Julie Murray, Mike Murray, Roger Guptill, Bruce Brown, Steve Shea, Marc Scheele, Barry Kray, Dawn Chase, Jeff Chase, and Dan Dix.



Late arrivals: Rick Wood Jr. (left) and Rick Wood, Sr. (right).

Photos by Mainely Local Yokes staff

March 13, 2025: VFW Post 5744 mustered at the South Berwick Community Center for a regular meeting



Minutes of Regular Meeting on 3-13-25

17 Members Present

Commander – Jeffrey Chase	Adjutant – Brent Roets
Senior Vice Commander – Barry Kray	Chaplain – Bruce Brown
Junior Vice Commander – Michael Murray	Service Officer – Shelley Landry
Quartermaster – Marc Scheele	Assistant SO – Daniel Kenney
Historian – Michael St. Pierre	

Adjutant Brent Roets and Senior Vice Commander Barry Kray were absent (excused)

**Minutes transcribed from recording

Note: The February Meeting was canceled due to bad weather.

Opening:

1735: Meeting called to order by CDR Chase (pictured at right), as per VFW Ritual.

- We Rose for Pledge of Allegiance.
- Opening Prayer by Chaplain Brown.

Adjourned for Dinner; resumed meeting after dinner



Minutes:

1. Upon motion and second, it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes of the Post meeting held on 1/9/25.

Quartermaster's Report:

1. QM Scheele gave his Financial Report for the months ending 1/31/25 and 2/28/25. Upon motion made by Hank Hansen and seconded by Mal Kenney, it was unanimously voted to accept the QM's financial reports, subject to audit.

Service Officer's Report:

1. **Shelley Landry** (pictured at right) reported that Ed Hagan, Freeman Lane, and Kenneth Shorey were visited.



←Paul Lapierre and Frank Puopolo

New Members Report:

1. Nothing to report.

Membership Committee Report:

1. Nothing to report.

Bob Morrison →



Social Media Committee Report:

1. Mike St. Pierre reported that VFW National created the Website Solutions platform to increase membership, streamline communications, and enable new fundraising.
2. The idea for new fundraising is to seek out sponsors and note these sponsors on our website.
3. Mike made a motion to allow Post members to seek Sponsors in accordance with VFW By-Laws, Shelly Landry seconded, and the motion carried.
4. The website can be accessed at: www.vvw5744.org

Pease Greeter's Report:

1. The Pease Greeters are active and busy.

Honor Guard Recap:

1. Mike Murray reported on upcoming events, like the Vietnam War Veterans Day observance to be held at the Berwick Town Hall.
2. He noted that more funeral services were expected now that spring is here.
3. He put out a call for more members.
4. Dennis Ouelette made a motion that we upgrade the Posts Honor Guard rifles to M1 Garands, Mal Kenney seconded, the motion carried.
5. Dennis also indicated that we will be needing a new place to store our Honor Guard rifles. He was open for suggestions.

Legislative Business:

1. Mal Kenney indicated that there is a change to Travel Compensation. Be on the lookout for this. Be sure to note your travel mileage to and from doctor visits.



Members at the meeting

Correspondence:

1. We received plaques from The Department of Maine for meeting 101% of membership and 102% of membership. We also received a flag ribbon for these accomplishments.
2. We received thank you cards from the following for our donations: Home for the Holidays (S. Berwick), Neighbor Helping Neighbor (N. Berwick), House of Hope (Berwick), Rollinsford Policeman's Benevolent Association, and the Southern Maine Veteran's Home.
3. Discussion was had and tabled for donating to and sending a member to the capital with the Honor Flight of Maine Association.
5. Thank you from Mike Murray for grandson's college scholarship.
6. Thank you from Roger Guptill for grandson's college scholarship.

Old Business:

1. Discussion was had on the correct cover to be worn in accordance with uniform regulations.
 - a. Do not wear VFW clothing when you attend a political event.
 - b. A ball cap is allowed at Post meetings.
2. Nominations are open for Post Officers and Officials fiscal year 7-1-25 through 6-30-26. If you are interested in any Officer or committee position, please let us know. If you are currently an Officer or

Committee member and do not wish to serve for another year, please let us know.



← Steve Dix

Ernie Wood,
Dan Kenney,
Mal Kenney →



New Business:

1. Upon motion by Malcolm Kenney, and seconded by Marc Scheele, it was voted to donate \$100.00 to the Military Ball in May at PNSY.
2. Installation of Post Officers will be 5/8/25 at the South Berwick Community Center. It will be a potluck with appetizers supplied by the Post.
3. We had about 14 people show up for the breakfast social and are looking for other ideas of social events.
4. QM Marc Scheele will determine our Post's Delegates and alternates for the 2025 Department Maine, District 11, VFW Convention (effective as of 4/10/25).
5. QM Marc Scheele will determine our Post's Delegates and alternates for the 2025 Department Maine, VFW State Convention (effective as of 4/10/25).
6. Upon motion by Marc Scheele, and seconded by Hank Hansen, it was voted to elect and pay the \$25.00 fee for CDR Jeffrey Chase to be our Post Delegate for the 2024 VFW National Convention.
7. Upon motion by Marc Scheele, and seconded by Roger Guptill, it was voted to donate \$100.00 to Nadene Gookin for her volunteer beautification work at the Southern Maine Veteran's Cemetery in Springvale.
8. Nominations for Post Officers and Appointees are as follows:
 - a. Commander – Jeff Chase
 - b. Senior Vice Commander – Barry Kray

- c. Junior Vice Commander – Mike Murray
 - d. Quartermaster – March Scheele
 - e. Trustees – Malcolm Kenney, Roger Guptill, Steve Shae, Hank Hansen (alternate)
 - f. Chaplain – Bruce Brown
 - g. Adjutant – Brent Roets
 - h. Service Officer – Shelley Landry
 - i. Associate Service Officer – Daniel Kenney
 - j. Judge Advocate – Malcom Kenney
 - k. Surgeon – Roger Guptill
 - l. Public Relations Officer – Mike St. Pierre
 - m. Historian – Mike St. Pierre
9. The Budget Committee will meet on 4/8/25 at 1000 at Roger Guptill's house.
 10. The Membership Committee will meet on 4/15/25 at 1000 at Roger Guptill's house.
 11. Northeast Passage is having a Veteran's Shoot. Contact Steve Dix or Northeast Passage for further information



Marc Scheele, Brian Poirier, Shelly Landry, Roger Guptill, Hank Hansen, and John Dennett

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:

2. Our next meeting will be on 4/10/25 at 1730 at the South Berwick Community Center.

Dates to Remember:

2. Honor Guard practices are the first Monday of the month at 1830.
The Honor Guard needs more members – contact Dennis Ouellette for information or to join.

Closing Prayer:

Closing Prayer by Chaplain Brown.

Paster Brown →

Vote to Adjourn:

1934: Upon motion made by CDR Chase and seconded by a member, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.



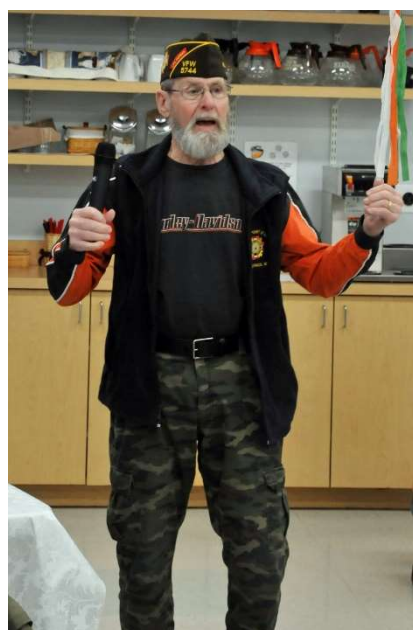
Post 50/50 Drawing:

\$25 winner: Not acknowledged on the recording.



← Dennis Ouellette, Steve Dix,
Mike Murray

Dennis Ouellette addressed a request for new
Honor Guard rifles →



Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

April 10, 2025: VFW Post 5744 mustered at the South Berwick Community Center for a regular meeting



Record of Regular Meeting on 4-10-25

Commander – Jeffrey Chase

Senior Vice Commander – Barry Kray

Junior Vice Commander – Michael Murray

Quartermaster – Marc Scheele

Historian – Michael St. Pierre

Adjutant – Brent Roets

Chaplain – Bruce Brown

Service Officer – Shelley Landry

Assistant SO – Daniel Kenney

Adjutant Brent Roets was absent (excused)

Opening:

Meeting called to order by [CDR Chase](#) (pictured at right) , as per VFW Ritual.

- We Rose for Pledge of Allegiance.
- Opening Prayer by Chaplain Brown.

Adjourned for Dinner; resumed meeting after dinner



Minutes:

2. Upon motion made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes of the Post meeting held on 3/13/25.

Quartermaster's Report:

2. QM Scheele gave his Financial Report for the month ending 1/31/25. Upon motion made and seconded, it was unanimously voted to accept the QM's financial reports, subject to audit.

Service Officer's Report:

2. [Shelley Landry](#) reported that Ed Hagan, Freeman Lane, and Kenneth Shorey were visited.



←[Paul Lapierre and Frank Puopolo](#)

New Members Report:

2. Nothing to report.

Membership Committee Report:

2. Nothing to report.

Bob Morrison →



Social Media Committee Report:

5. Mike St. Pierre reported that VFW National created the Website Solutions platform to increase membership, streamline communications, and enable new fundraising.
6. The idea for new fundraising is to seek out sponsors and note these sponsors on our website.
7. Mike made a motion to allow Post members to seek Sponsors in accordance with VFW By-laws, Shelly Landry seconded, and the motion carried.
8. The website can be accessed at: www.vvw5744.org

Pease Greeter's Report:

2. The Pease Greeters are active and busy.

Honor Guard Recap:

6. Mike Murray reported on upcoming events, like the Vietnam War Veterans Day observance to be held at the Berwick Town Hall.
7. He noted that more funeral services were expected now that spring is here.
8. He put out a call for more members.
9. Dennis Ouelette made a motion that we upgrade the Posts Honor Guard rifles to M1 Garands, Mal Kenney seconded, the motion carried.
10. Dennis also indicated that we will be needing a new place to store our Honor Guard rifles. He was open for suggestions.

Legislative Business:

2. Mal Kenney indicated that there is a change to Travel Compensation. Be on the lookout for this. Be sure to note your travel mileage to and from doctor visits.



Members at the meeting

Correspondence:

1. We received plaques from The Department of Maine for meeting 101% of membership and 102% of membership. We also received a flag ribbon for these accomplishments.
2. We received thank you cards from the following for our donations: Home for the Holidays (S. Berwick), Neighbor Helping Neighbor (N. Berwick), House of Hope (Berwick), Rollinsford Policeman's Benevolent Association, and the Southern Maine Veteran's Home.
3. Discussion was had and tabled for donating to and sending a member to the capital with the Honor Flight of Maine Association.
5. Thank you from Mike Murray for grandson's college scholarship.
6. Thank you from Roger Guptill for grandson's college scholarship.

Old Business:

3. Discussion was had on the correct cover to be worn in accordance with uniform regulations.
 - a. Do not wear VFW clothing when you attend a political event.
 - b. A ball cap is allowed at Post meetings.
4. Nominations are open for Post Officers and Officials fiscal year 7-1-25 through 6-30-26. If you are interested in any Officer or committee position, please let us know. If you are currently an Officer or

Committee member and do not wish to serve for another year, please let us know.



← Steve Dix

Ernie Wood,
Dan Kenney,
Mal Kenney →



New Business:

12. Upon motion by Malcolm Kenney, and seconded by Marc Scheele, it was voted to donate \$100.00 to the Military Ball in May at PNSY.
13. Installation of Post Officers will be 5/8/25 at the South Berwick Community Center. It will be a potluck with appetizers supplied by the Post.
14. We had about 14 people show up for the breakfast social and are looking for other ideas of social events.
15. QM Marc Scheele will determine our Post's Delegates and alternates for the 2025 Department Maine, District 11, VFW Convention (effective as of 4/10/25).
16. QM Marc Scheele will determine our Post's Delegates and alternates for the 2025 Department Maine, VFW State Convention (effective as of 4/10/25).
17. Upon motion by Marc Scheele, and seconded by Hank Hansen, it was voted to elect and pay the \$25.00 fee for CDR Jeffrey Chase to be our Post Delegate for the 2024 VFW National Convention.
18. Upon motion by Marc Scheele, and seconded by Roger Guptill, it was voted to donate \$100.00 to Nadene Gookin for her volunteer beautification work at the Southern Maine Veteran's Cemetery in Springvale.
19. Nominations for Post Officers and Appointees are as follows:
 - a. Commander – Jeff Chase
 - b. Senior Vice Commander – Barry Kray

- c. Junior Vice Commander – Mike Murray
 - d. Quartermaster – March Scheele
 - e. Trustees – Malcolm Kenney, Roger Guptill, Steve Shae, Hank Hansen (alternate)
 - f. Chaplain – Bruce Brown
 - g. Adjutant – Brent Roets
 - h. Service Officer – Shelley Landry
 - i. Associate Service Officer – Daniel Kenney
 - j. Judge Advocate – Malcom Kenney
 - k. Surgeon – Roger Guptill
 - l. Public Relations Officer – Mike St. Pierre
 - m. Historian – Mike St. Pierre
20. The Budget Committee will meet on 4/8/25 at 1000 at Roger Guptill's house.
21. The Membership Committee will meet on 4/15/25 at 1000 at Roger Guptill's house.
22. Northeast Passage is having a Veteran's Shoot. Contact Steve Dix or Northeast Passage for further information



Marc Scheele, Brian Poirier, Shelly Landry, Roger Guptill, Hank Hansen, and John Dennett

Good of the Order:

- 4. Reminder to get your 2 dose shingle vaccines.
- 5. Reminder to get your flu shots.
- 6. Reminder to get you Covid booster shots.

Next Post Meeting:

3. Our next meeting will be on 4/10/25 at 1730 at the South Berwick Community Center.

Dates to Remember:

3. Honor Guard practices are the first Monday of the month at 1830.
The Honor Guard needs more members – contact Dennis Ouellette for information or to join.

Closing Prayer:

Closing Prayer by Chaplain Brown.

Paster Brown →

Vote to Adjourn:

1934: Upon motion made by CDR Chase and seconded by a member, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.



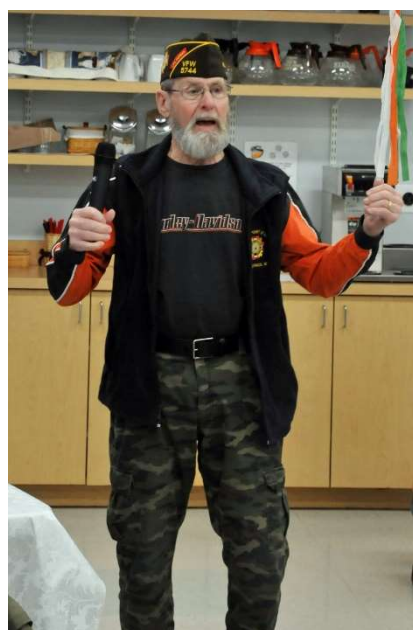
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← Dennis Ouellette, Steve Dix,
Mike Murray

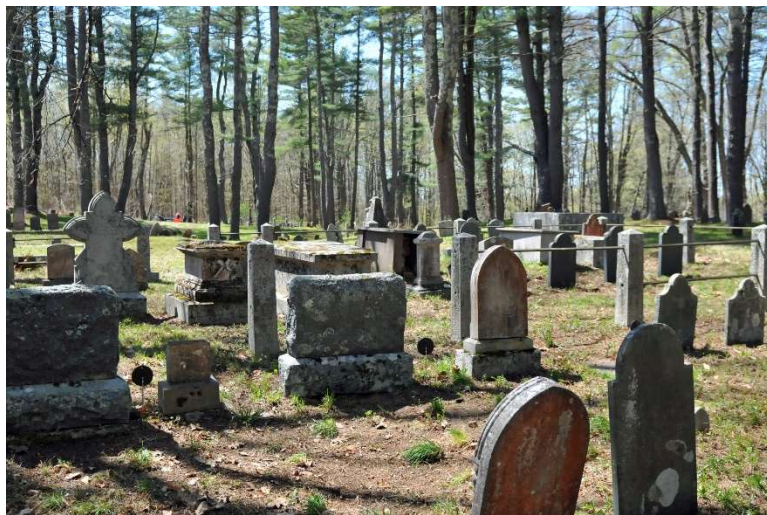
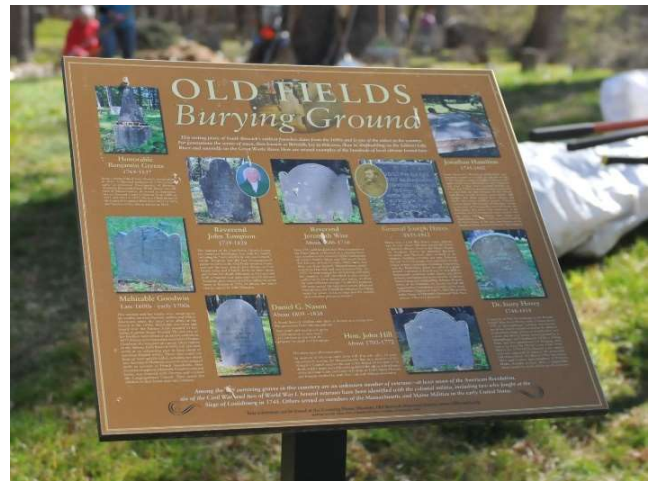
Dennis Ouellette addressed a request for new
Honor Guard rifles →



Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

April 28, 2025: South Berwick Memorial VFW Post 5744, along with “Liberty Torchbearers” from Liberty Mutual’s Portsmouth Campus, gathered to clean the Old Fields Burying Grounds on Vine Street in South Berwick. This project involved the removal of downed limbs and branches, and clearing away the accumulations of leaves, pine needles, and pinecones. These efforts will enable the Town of South Berwick to provide important upkeep.

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



Hundreds of citizens are buried in this cemetery, many in graves no longer visible or where only fragments of headstones remain.

Among some 339 identified graves in the cemetery are several former soldiers from the 1700s to the 1900s,

including several that have been tied to the colonial militia, two who fought at the Siege of Louisburg in 1745, and others who served as members of the Massachusetts and Maine Militias. There are also seven veterans from the American Revolution, six from the American Civil War, and two from World War I.¹⁾

VFW's mission includes a "Still Serving" endeavor. Notwithstanding the service we provided our country, we now strive to actively involve ourselves in our community. At right is Roger Guptill.

Liberty Mutual, with its "Serve with



At right is Robin Givens.



Leaves, pinecones and pine needles were deposited near the road.



Liberty" program, empowers its employees to pursue their volunteer interests during National Service Month. At left are Sarah Favazza, Lisa LaChance, Dawn Croteau, and Brian Poirier.



Mike Murray operated one of the haul tractors.

Jeff Chase operated the other haul tractor.





Dawn Chase and John Ford seen picking up branches and sticks.



Eric Oberg with a rake in hand.



Shannon Morrisette is surrounded by leaves!



Marc Scheele, Roger Guptill, Brian Poirier, and Mal Kenney are gathering leaves.



Mike St. Pierre alternated between taking pictures and raking.

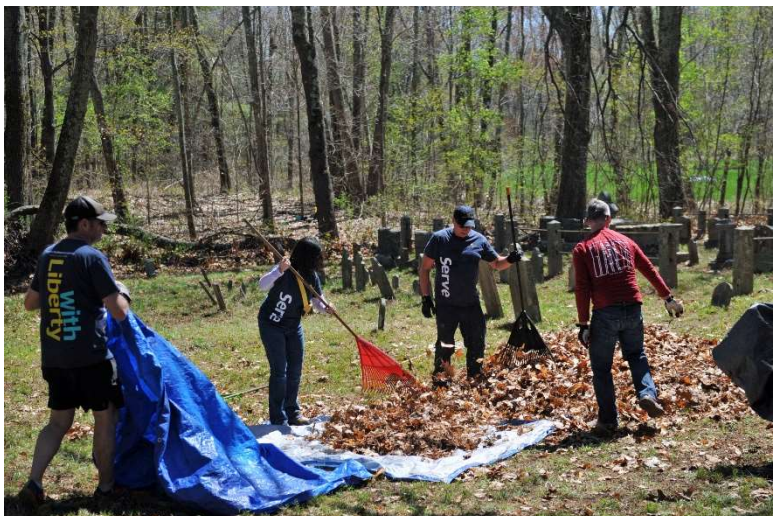


Marc Scheele and Richie Meenagh loading trailer.



Calvin Butler, almost lost among the stones.

Robbie MacPherson, raking between the graves stones.



One last push after lunch!

Liberty Mutual's Eric Oberg, Lisa LaChance, Corey Ladue and Richie Meenagh seen gathering leaves onto tarps for dumping onto the hauled trailers.



Front: VFW – Dawn and Jeff Chase with “Major”, Roger Guptill.
 Back: LM – Brian Poirier, Eric Oberg, Dawn Croteau, Robbie MacPherson, Sarah Favazza, Corey Ladue, Lisa LaChance, Calvin Butler, Richie Meenagh; VFW – Mike Murray, Mal Kenney, Marc Scheele. (Missing: LM - Robin Givens, Shannon Morrisette; VFW – John Ford) Photo by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

VFW – Post 5744 sincerely appreciated this “Serve with Liberty” team’s unwavering support of this cemetery cleanup project.

The end results – this cemetery has truly never looked so good!



(1) Information from the Old Berwick Historical Society
 Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

May 1, 2025: VFW Post 5744 helped the 3rd graders at Central School celebrate Loyalty Day with a Flag Ceremony in front of the school.

When Teacher Megan Zottoli-Breen's students noted that the school needed a new flag on the school's flagpole, they asked Principal Nina D'Aran if this could be done. Principal D'Aran asked the town's foremost veteran advocate, Malcolm Kenney of South Berwick Memorial VFW Post 5744, for advice. Mal suggested a Flag Ceremony on Loyalty Day.



A flag ceremony is an event involving the raising or lowering of a flag and accompanied by a *Pledge of Allegiance* or patriotic songs. Loyalty day is a day set aside for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States and for recognizing the heritage of American freedom.

Above: Central School 3rd Graders Assembled by the school's flagpole.

Right: Mal Kenney spoke briefly about Flag Etiquette, Including:

When the flag is raised or passes by -

- Everyone in uniform should give a military salute
- Military personnel and veterans not in uniform may use the military salute
- Everyone else should face the flag with their right hand over the heart
- If you are wearing a hat, take it off with your right hand and place it over the heart
- Do not let the flag touch the ground





Mal presented a new U.S. flag to Principal Nina D'Aran.



Commander Jeff Chase and Mal Kenney performed a Flag Raising Ceremony while everyone attending recited their *Pledge of Allegiance*, including military salute or hand on heart.



Led by Music Teacher Kate Smith, the students then sang a beautiful rendition of George Cohan's patriotic march, *You're a Grand Old Flag*.

Miss Smith then invited everyone back for the school's annual Third Grade Patriotic Concert, to be held on May 21st.

Thanks also to teachers Caitlin Howell, Jennifer Wyatt, and Rachel Moore!



Veteran Jerry Beaudette stopped by to observe the ceremony.



Veteran Bill Glass with “Leila” stopped by to enjoy the ceremony. Not pictured: VFW’s Roger Guptill, Marc Scheele, and Mike St. Pierre.



Bill Glass with “Leila”, who live next door, are regulars at the school and are obviously loved by the students.

Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

May 8, 2025: The Post held its annual Spring Potluck Social, including member recognition, the presentation of awards, and the installation of our 2025-2026 Elected Officers.

While appetizers were offered, Commander Jeff Chase started with opening comments. Our *Pledge of Allegiance* was recited. Pastor Bruce Brown offered a blessing. Guests were introduced.

The following are select photos from our ***Spring Social***:

John & Cheryl Bartlett, Paul & Diana
Lapierre →



John Dennett, Mike and Julie Murray,
June Gupstill, and Nancy Dennett →



← Mal, Dan, Sally-Ann, and Zelda
Kenney, with Debbie Zagroski (back)



← John Dennett, Roger Gupstill,
Department of Maine Quartermaster
Dave Williams, and Mike Murray

Note: Dave Williams will later preside at the “swearing in” of our Post’s 2025-2026 Elected Officers and Trustees.

Post Armorer Dennis Ouellette is with
Steve Dix and Ann-Marie Bates →



← Barry and Liz Kray (almost looks
like they're on a date!)

100-year-old U.S. Navy Veteran **Raymond Payer** of North Berwick spoke of his experiences aboard the USS Indianapolis (CA-35), a heavy cruiser deployed

during World War II. The ship completed a top-secret trip to deliver uranium for the first nuclear weapon used in combat. Payer left the ship just days before it was sunk by an Imperial Japanese Navy submarine on July 30th. Pictured with Ray are (l-r): Brian Poirier, Paul Rollins, and Roger Guptill.



Tom & Melanie (hidden) Joyce, Dennis
Ouellette, Steve Dix, Ann-Marie and
Mike Bates, Bill Wenners →



← Marc Scheele, Joyce St. Pierre, Tom
and Melanie Joyce, and Steve Dix.

Alise & Shelley Landry, Barry Kray, and
Paster Bruce Brown →



Mark Kenney and his friend Jennifer
manned the kitchen! →



← Colin Landry is with Paster Brown



And TEAM CHASE: Post Commander Jeff Chase, Dawn Chase, and Major

Awards and Recognitions:



← CDR Chase presented Brian Poirier with a ***One-Year Pin***

Note: A ***Five-Year Pin*** was awarded to Hank Hensen, who was absent due to illness.



CDR Chase presented Marc Scheele → with a ***5-Member Pin*** – for enlisting five new members



← The 2024-2025 District 11 ***Voice of Democracy*** winner, Alise Landry (daughter of Colin and Shelley Landry) was acknowledged with a plaque and a \$200 check from the Post.

Ed Hagan, who was not present due to illness, was awarded a South Berwick Memorial VFW Post 5744 ***Lifetime Membership Award*** in recognition of

25 years as an active member. Ed's many contributions included Post Quartermaster and Executive Board Member, as well as attending fundraising events and work parties. Ed was instrumental in outfitting Past Commander Gary Spaulding's van for safe transport to and from dialysis treatments, and for spearheading the scheduling of driver support for Gary's treatments.



Shelley Landry was awarded a South Berwick Memorial VFW Post 5744 **Lifetime Membership Award** in recognition of her selfless service as our Service Officer. She enthusiastically embraced her duties, contacting members who were ill and sending cards and wishes. She took the Post Holiday Basket to a new level, coordinating and participating in the delivery of over twenty baskets to members. She also executed meal plans for laid-up members and their families, and provided delicious dishes for Post meetings and our concession stands. She participates in many of our fundraising efforts.

Michael St. Pierre was awarded a South Berwick Memorial VFW Post 5744 **Community Service Award** in recognition of assuming duties as Public Relations Officer and Post Historian. Whereas he spent countless hours photographing and documenting Post activities; later incorporating them into news articles, Quarterly Newsletters, and the Annual Post Yearbook. In addition, Mike was responsible for creating and maintaining a Post Website. Mike's expertise in public relations and social media has vastly improved our Post's communications and our visibility in the community. He has been working to digitally archive our Post Awards and earlier Yearbooks and has placed physical copies in the South Berwick Library to be shared with the community, our members, and their families for many generations to come.





Roger Guptill was awarded a South Berwick Memorial VFW Post 5744 **Community Service Award** in recognition of fifteen years as an active Post member. Upon assuming the Post Quartermaster position, which he held for four years, Roger took the initiative to chair the Budget Committee and created a budget tracking model ensuring the long-term viability of the Post. As Post Membership Chairman he again created and maintains a Post Membership

List and carries out all associated membership administrative duties. Additionally, Roger secured a \$2,000 educational assistance grant from a private donor for a deserving combat Veteran. He was instrumental in obtaining the gross sales of \$25,000 for the Fisher Snowplow Fundraiser. Roger has organized our Poppy Toll and Strawberry Festival fundraisers and recruiting events for years. He maintains and sets up the Post sound system at meetings and events and attends most of our fundraisers and work parties. Roger's expertise in accounting, spreadsheets, investing, and countless man-hours of hard work over the last seven years have been invaluable to the long-term financial success of the Post.

Installation of Elected Officers and Trustees:



Department Quartermaster Dave Williams prompts our 2025-2026 Elected Officers and Trustees in reciting the **Officer's Obligation** as Commander Chase holds the flag and all are linked by a hand on shoulder.



2025-2026 Officers and Trustees

Left-to-right: Commander Jeff Chase, Senior Vice Commander Barry Kray, Junior Vice Commander Mike Murray, Quartermaster Marc Scheele, Trustee Roger Guptill, Service Officer Shelley Landry, Chaplain Paster Bruce Brown, Trustee Malcolm Kenney, Department of Maine Quartermaster Dave Williams (absent: Adjutant Brent Roets, Trustee Steve Shae, Alt. Trustee Hank Hanson)

Photos by Mike St. Pierre, Historian

PART C
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

VFW 2024-2025 National Officers



Alfred J. "Al" Lipphardt
Commander-in-Chief

Alfred J. "Al" Lipphardt was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. on Aug. 1, 2024, at the 125th VFW National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

Al served in the United States Army from 1965 to 1979, earning his VFW eligibility by serving in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968, and from 1970 to 1971. In recognition of his heroic service in combat, he received the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Bronze Star with "V" device, Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Service, Purple Heart Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal with

Silver Star and two Bronze Stars, among many others.

He joined the VFW in 2002 at Post 12002 in North Fulton, Georgia, and maintains his Gold Legacy Life membership in VFW Post 2667, Newnan, Georgia.



Carol Whitmore
Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Carol Whitmore was elected Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. on Aug. 1, 2024, at the 125th VFW National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

Carol served in the U.S. Army from 1977 to 2013, earning her VFW eligibility by serving in Iraq. In recognition of her service, she received the Legion of Merit Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal (six), Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, among many others.

She joined the VFW in 2012 at Post 9127 in Des Moines, Iowa, where she maintains her Gold Legacy Life membership. In 2022, she was elected as designee for National VFW Commander-in-Chief for the year 2025, becoming the first woman and first Iowan to hold the position.



Timothy C. Peters
Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Timothy C. Peters was elected Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. on Aug. 1, 2024, at the 125th VFW National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

Tim served in the United States Air Force from 1981-2001, earning his VFW eligibility serving in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. In recognition of his service, he received the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Aerial Achievement Medal, and more.

He joined the VFW in 1996 at Post 805 in O'Fallon, Illinois, later transferring to Post 10010 in East Helena, Montana, where he maintains his Gold Legacy Life membership.



Dan West
Adjutant General

Dan West was appointed the Adjutant General of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. on July 21, 2022, at the 123rd VFW National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri.

Dan served in the United States Marine Corps from 1983 to 1994, serving in Operation Desert Storm.

He joined the VFW in 1996 at Post 3413 in San Marcos, Texas, where he maintains his Gold Legacy Life membership.



Marc Garduno
Quartermaster General

Marc Garduno was elected Quartermaster General of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. on March 21, 2022, by special election of the National Council of Administration.

Marc retired from the U.S. Army after 20 years as a chief warrant officer (CW3), human resources technician, and his assignments included several tours in the Republic of Korea, Fort Bragg, and others. During his military career, Marc was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (3), Army Commendation Medal (5), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korea Defense Service Medal and many more.

He joined VFW Post 8180, Seoul, Korea in 2005, and currently maintains his Gold Legacy Life membership at VFW Post 3238, Camden, Delaware.



2024 - 2025 National Council of Administration



VFW National information from the VFW.org.

VFW – DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

2024-2025 Officers

Commander: Anthony Kimble, Post 3108 (Belfast)

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

Junior Vice Commander: William Day, Post 7997 (Old Orchard Beach)

Adjutant: Carl Lambert, Post 9 (West Gardiner)

Quartermaster: David Williams, Post 1641 (Rumford)

Judge Advocate: Roger Stevens, Post 2197 (Topsham)

Surgeon: James Ewing, Post 1605 (Burlington)

Chaplain: Kevin Woodward, Post 11553 (Harrington)

Immediate Post Commander: John Bouchard, Post 9389 (Caribou)

Chief of Staff: Steven SanPedro, Post 6859 (Portland)

Inspector: Danforth Saucier, Post 9389 (Caribou)

Service Officer: Cornelius Ware, Jr., 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: Chad Stewart, Post 7865 (Madison)

Historian: Amy Hope Meuchel, Post 6859 (Portland)

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

Sergeant-at-Arms: Chad Stewart, Post 7865 (Madison)

Officer of the Day: Chad Stewart, Post 7865 (Madison)

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

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

VFW – DEPARTMENT OF MAINE – DISTRICT 11

2024-2025 Officers

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 J. Rocray*
188 Brook St, Sanford, ME 04073-2507
Tel: 337-8637 * Post 9935
E-mail: N/A

Jr. Vice Commander *Allen W. Carter*
22 Fall Mill RD, York, ME 03909
Tel: 363-3215 * Post 9394
Email: kty9394vfw@hotmail.com

Quartermaster *James Bachelder*
PO Box 652, Sanford, ME 04073-0652
Tel: 432-7127 * Post 9935
E-mail: jamesbachelder@metrocast.net

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

<i>Post</i>	<i>Page</i>
5744 * South Berwick Memorial, Berwick	36
6977 * Boardman-Ellis, York	39
7997 * Old Orchard Beach Memorial, OOB	41
9394 * Kittery-Elliott Memorial, Kittery	43
9935 * Sanford-Springvale Memorial, Sanford	45

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.

The Following Newsclips are from:

News you
want
to read!

The Weekly Sentinel

Our Community Newspaper Serving: ARUNDEL, BERWICK, CAPE NEDDICK, ELIOT, KENNEBUNK, KENNEBUNKPORT, KITTERY POINT, MOODY, NO. BERWICK, OGUNQUIT, SO. BERWICK, WELLS, YORK & YORK HARBOUR

Cleaning Old Fields Burying Ground

SOUTH BERWICK -

Organized by VFW Post 5744, members recently gathered with Liberty Torchbearers and neighborhood volunteers to clean the Old Fields Burying Grounds, located on Vine Street in South Berwick. The 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 (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

June 7, 2024
Vol. 20 • Issue 23

Town of South Berwick

South Berwick Memorial VFW Post 5744

5:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the South Berwick Community Center, 71 Norton St., South Berwick. All veterans who have served in conflicts are invited, meals provided. Upcoming: February 13. FMI: michaelstpierre@comcast.net or www.facebook.com/vfwsberwick.



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.

Each year, Liberty Mutual volunteers participate in "Serve with Liberty," the company's annual days of service, supporting causes they care about. This year, the group involved in the

Old Fields Burying Grounds cleanup project collaborated with VFW Post 5744. One volunteer, Mary Jo Wentworth, traveled from Methuen, MA, to help clean up her ancestors' burial sites.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/vfwsberwick.

VFW Post 5744's Snacks Stand



SOUTH BERWICK -

In late July, South Berwick Memorial VFW Post 5744 introduced a "Snacks" concession stand at the South Berwick "Hot Summer Nights" Concert Series, held on the lawn in front of Central School. The ongoing fundraiser aimed to generate funds to support the Post's community and veteran support services. Items were carefully selected from companies that share VFW Post 5744's values of supporting veterans and first responders, as well as for their sustainability and commitment to giving back to the community. The Post's introductory offerings included

warm pretzels, beef jerky, meat sticks, popcorn, lemonade, and bottled water.

The concession stand also appeared at the South Berwick-Wells Christian Church "yard sale" and the Sanford Sounds annual "Show and Shine" Car Show.

VFW Post 5744 is seeking more local events to continue running their concession stand. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/vfwsberwick.

Photo above: Jeff Chase, Dawn Chase and Daniel Kenney man the Concession Stand at a "Hot Summer Night" concert. Photo by Mike St. Pierre.

August
2024

August
2024

South Berwick VFW Barbecue



SOUTH BERWICK -

On Saturday, August 17, members of South Berwick Memorial VFW Post 5744, along with their families and guests, gathered at the home of Past Post Commander Malcolm Kenney

for the post's annual BBQ Social. The event featured a variety of barbecued meats provided by the post, while attendees contributed a variety of side dishes and desserts. Commander Jeff Chase also offered samples of

new snack items that the post is considering for its upcoming concession stand fundraiser. Additionally, several prizes were raffled off during the event. Fifty members and guests were in attendance.

9/13

VFW Post 5744 Promotes Liam Brewster to Eagle Scout



SOUTH BERWICK -

Members of South Berwick Memorial VFW Post 5744 were invited to the home of Louis and Sara Brewster, where their son, Liam Brewster (on left in photo), was honored at a Boy Scout of America (BSA) Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Liam became the latest Eagle Scout promoted through South Berwick BSA Troop #338.

Scout Master Russ Abell, a former Eagle Scout himself, officiated and led the Voice of the Eagle Ceremony. VFW Post 5744 Commander Jeff Chase (center) presented Brewster with a Certificate of Achievement and a cash gift. VFW Past Commander Malcolm Kenney (right) offered a thoughtful reflection on this achievement. Photo by Sara Brewster.

Sept. 13, 2024
Volume 20.
Issue 38

Nov. 1, 2024
Volume 20.
Issue 45

VFW Post 5744 Honors Mainely Local Yolks

BERWICK -

On Thursday, October 24, members of South Berwick Memorial VFW Post 5744 gathered at Mainely Local Yolks in Berwick for breakfast and to recognize business owners Justin and Elizabeth Canton. Post Commander Jeffrey Chase presented the Cantons with a "Community Service Award" in recognition of their gracious hospitality in hosting the Post's monthly meetings. Past topics of interest include "Voice of Democracy," "Patriots Pen," "Teacher of the Year," program awards banquets, and VFW District 11 meetings over the last three years.

VFW Post 5744 is honored to recognize that the Cantons continue to set the standard for

small businesses in supporting veterans and the community. Their selection as Berwick's 2023 Business of the Year is truly well-deserved.

Post 5744 recently announced that it has changed its meetings to the second Thursday of the month at the South Berwick Community Center, located 71 Norton Street in South Berwick,

at 5:30 p.m. Meetings occur from September through May.

Mainely Local Yolks is located at 43 Route 236 in Berwick. For more information, visit www.mlyberwick.com or call 207-715-0320.

For more information about South Berwick Memorial VFW Post 5744, visit www.facebook.com/vfwsberwick.



Left to right: Roger Guptill, Marc Scheele, Elizabeth Canton, Justin Canton, Jeffrey Chase, Malcolm Kenney, and Barry Kray. Missing are Michael Murray, Julie Murray, Bruce Brown and Dawn Chase. Photo by Dawn Chase.

VFW Post 5744 Veterans Day Observance

SOUTH BERWICK -

On Monday, November 11, South Berwick Memorial VFW Post 5744 and the Town of South Berwick provided a Veterans Day Observance at the South Berwick Town Hall. The event was attended by members of the post, town hall administrators, active-duty members of the USS Washington (SSN-787), Marshwood Great Works School (MGWS) students, Girl Scout Troop 1306, local first responders, other veterans, and local citizens. VFW Post 5744 Commander Jeffrey Chase was Master of Ceremonies.

After the introductions, The Post Color Guard posted the Colors (flags). Max Meade, a fourth-grade student from MGWS, led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance. Savannah Cook beautifully sang The Star-Spangled Banner, and Chaplain Bruce Brown provided an opening prayer.

Commander Chase then provided a quick summary of how Veterans Day (originally Armistice Day) came to be, and what it should mean to all.

The event's guest speaker was Senior Chief Austin Gilbert, Chief-of-Boat (COB) for the USS Washington. Senior Chief Gilbert gave a humorous account of his beginnings in the United States Navy, a caution that asking a submariner



to tell a story might involve an extensive time commitment, how his work is meaningful and important to national security, how every veteran has played a role in our safeguarding, and that all veterans are deserving of our respect.

The observance wrapped up with the Post 5744 Honor Guard providing a three-volley gun salute outside the building, VFW Past Commander Malcolm Kenney offering closing notes, and Chaplain Brown offering a closing prayer.

The USS Washington has just started a three-year refurbishment tour at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNSY).

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/vfwsberwick. Photo by Mike St. Pierre, post historian.

Nov. 22, 2024
Vol. 20 • Issue 48

Nov. 15, 2024
Vol. 20 • Issue 47

Marshwood to Honor Veterans with 24th Annual Assembly



ELIOT -

Marshwood Middle School is pleased to once again hold its 24th Annual Veterans Day Assembly on Friday, November 1 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. The school community extends an invitation to veterans, active military personnel, first responders, and their families to join in the celebration of service and dedication to protecting freedoms.

Guests are encouraged to

arrive at 8:30 a.m., when students and staff will greet them in a reception line before the program begins. The assembly will feature tributes and presentations by students, including performances in word, song, instrumental music, and video dedications.

Following the assembly, attendees are invited to a luncheon prepared and served by the students. Additionally, veterans and

first responders are welcome to stay and share their stories and experiences in small classroom groups with students.

The school community looks forward to honoring those who have served and protected their freedoms. Marshwood Middle School is located at 626 Dow Highway in Eliot. For more information, email kris.bisson@rsu35.org or mms.veterans@rsu35.org.

Our own,
Roger Gault
is noted
"Front and
Center"

Area Veterans have "Spirit of America"

YORK COUNTY -

A Berwick veteran active in the American Legion and a South Berwick veterans' organization were among the 18 recipients of the 2024 Spirit of America Foundation tribute awards, bestowed in November by York County Commissioners. Recipients are nominated by their municipalities.

Andy Buckman (pictured on left) of American Legion Post 79, a U.S. Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, was named a Spirit of America Foundation tribute winner for his contributions to the community and to the Legion. His efforts included hosting an auto show that drew 200 vehicles this year, a 5K race, a golf tournament, and much more, raising more than \$50,000 to aid community members. According to municipal leaders,



Buckman "is always willing to lend a hand or dedicate his time to support anything that benefits the people of Berwick, or any veteran." Buckman was named his community's Citizen of the Year in 2021 and Maine Legionnaire of the Year for 2024.

The Veterans of Foreign



Wars Post 5744 of South Berwick (pictured above) received a Spirit of America Foundation tribute. "These folks give their time to support, educate and fund-raise for many causes in the community – the scouts, youth sports, and veterans, to name a few," Town of South Berwick leaders

said of the members. "This organization's motto by D. Fogarty, is 'we may not have it together, but together, we have it all.'"

Among the others the tribute winners recognized for volunteerism and community spirit, was E. Russell Grady of the Kennebunkport Planning Board.

"We're really pleased to be doing something like this. It is an opportunity for us to learn what you are up to in your communities – and what you do in your communities makes it a better place," said York County Manager Greg Zinser during the presentations. "For that we thank you."

For more information, visit www.yorkcountymaine.gov.

Honoring National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day



Bugler Frank Puopolo (background) sounds "Taps" while members of the Honor Guard (Mike Post, Gretchen Farwell, Mike Murray, Dan Dix, and Dennis Ouellette; John Elwell being out of the frame) stand at "Present Arms". Photo by Hank Hansen.

SOUTH BERWICK -

On Saturday, December 7, South Berwick Memorial VFW Post 5744, other veterans, and visitors gathered at the Counting House Park to honor and remember the more than 3,500 dead or wounded from the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Post Commander Jeffrey Chase noted that the Veterans of Foreign Wars

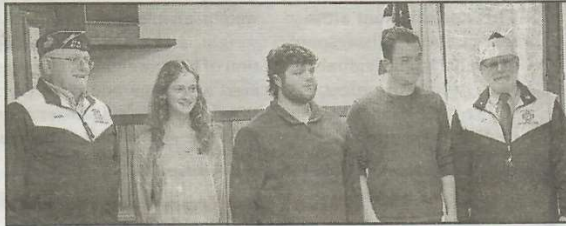
(VFW) encouraged all Americans to pause and reflect on the attack 83 years ago that changed the course of history and united the nation to defend sovereignty, confront tyranny, and reclaim freedom worldwide.

The ceremony included a Presentation of the Colors by member Paul Lapierre, a prayer by Chaplain "Pastor" Bruce Brown, the tossing of a ceremo-

Dec 27 2024
Vol. 20 -
Issue 52

Dec 20
Vol. 20
Issue 51

VFW, American Legion Present Local Scholarships



Left to right: Marc Schelle, Ivy Landry, Garrett Doucette, Jeffrey Norton, Jeff Chase. Photo provided by AL Post 47.

SOUTH BERWICK & ROLLINSFORD, NH -

Members, family, and guests of South Berwick Memorial VFW Post 5744 and American Legion Post 47-Rollinsford recently gathered at the Post 47 hall on Foundry Street in Rollinsford, NH, to honor American Legion scholarship recipients. Both posts offer scholarships to the children and grandchildren of area veterans.

Commander Jeffrey Chase and Quartermaster Marc Schelle of VFW Post 5744 issued scholar-

ships to the following recipients: Ivy Landry, studying at Gordon College, is the daughter of VFW Service Officer Shelley Landry; Jeffrey Norton, studying at Ohio University, is the grandson of VFW Junior Vice Commander Michael Murray; and Garrett Doucette, studying at Wentworth Institute, is the grandson of VFW Surgeon Roger Guptill.

Vice Commander Myron Crossley of American Legion Post 47 presented scholarships to five additional individuals, one being Landry.

Vol 21
Issue 8
Feb. 21, 2005

VFW Post 5744 Launches New Website

SOUTH BERWICK -

South Berwick Memorial VFW Post 5744 has launched a dedicated website, www.vfw5744.org, to improve communications with its members and provide an important reference for anyone wanting to learn more about the post. Webmaster Michael St. Pierre said that

members will be better able to track scheduled programs and activities and access meeting agendas and minutes. Citizens will be able to use the website to determine when and where patriotic observances are held. Non-member veterans can learn about the post and see if they qualify for membership.

Vol 21
Issue 12
March 21, 2005

Taps

The following pages are to honor Veterans from Post 5744 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 United States of America.

- Norman “Spike” Allard, US Navy, June 22, 2024 (Page 33)
- Howard V. York, US Air Force, September 15, 2024 (Obituary follows)
- Robert “Gabby” Place, US Army, September 26, 2024 (Page 52)
- Bruce Burke, US Marines, November 8, 2024 (Page 87)
- Lin Bergeron, US Navy, December 7, 2024 (Obituary follows)
- Raymond W. Felic, US Navy, January 24, 2025 (Obituary follows)
- Robert W. Ferland (no information available)
- Wayne A. Jacobs, US Army, April 3, 2025 (Obituary follows)

Howard V. York

July 4, 1932 – September 15, 2024



PENOBSCOT — Howard V. York, 92, died early Sunday morning, Sept. 15, 2024, at his home after a brief time in hospice care. He was born July 4, 1932, the son of Melvin C. and Margaret E. (Ridley) York in Castine.

Howard married his high school sweetheart, Dorothy, on Nov. 1, 1952, and within days, headed to USAF Basic Training in upstate New York.

Howard served in the U.S. Air Force from November 1952 to April 1973. Over the years, serving both stateside and overseas, they met many people that became lifelong friends and always stayed in touch with one another.

Howard was a loving and caring husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He enjoyed keeping his 3rd-generation homestead and property shipshape. Everything from mowing the lawn to doing woodwork in his shop and barn was a labor of love.

After retiring from the Air Force, he worked for the Bucksport school department at the Jewett School as a building custodian.

Howard was actively involved in the Bucks Mills Rod and Gun Club, helping with hole bean suppers to calling bingo. He was also very active with the Penobscot Historical Society as a voting member.

He loved following bluegrass festivals, golfing and enjoyed dancing with his loving wife.

After retiring from the Jewett School, he and his wife made several cross-country trips to visit family and friends. Howard and Dot spent several winters in Florida, and while there, took many group tours and cruises. Both he and his wife had a very active and adventurous life together.

He is survived by his two daughters: Rhonda Loncto and husband Don, their children Todd and Christopher Parlin; Marlene Robinson and husband Doug and their children Jessica Brown Hart and Dustin Brown, Benjamin York, as well as several great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, Howard was predeceased by his loving wife, Dorothy (DeLaite) York, one son Bryant V. York, one grandson Lucas York, great-grandson Xander Brown and great-granddaughter Weslyn Brown.

A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2024, at Mitchell-Tweedie Funeral Home, 28 Elm St., Bucksport, Maine. Burial with military honors will follow the service at Bayview Cemetery in Penobscot. The family would like to thank Northern Light Hospice Care for their devotion and dedication.

www.mitchelltweedie-young.com.

Lin Bergeron:

November 16, 1948 – December 7, 2024



Lin Bergeron, a man of honor, great storyteller, and beloved family man, passed away on December 7th at the age of 76. Born on November 16, 1948, to Lucien and Catherine Bergeron, Lin lived a life filled with service, laughter, and love.

Lin grew up in a large family with nine siblings and attended Spaulding High School, graduating in 1968. Following graduation, he joined the United States Navy, proudly serving as a Vietnam Veteran with Squadron VA56 aboard the USS Enterprise (CVN-65) and USS Midway (CV-41).

After receiving an honorable discharge, Lin pursued higher education at the Whittemore School of Business at the University of New Hampshire, earning a Bachelor of Science in Business in 1976. His professional journey began at his family's business, Bergeron Insurance in Rochester, before he became President and CEO of Holy Rosary Credit Union in Rochester, a position he held for two decades.

Lin's commitment to his community was evident through his roles as past president of both the Rochester Chamber of Commerce and Rochester Rotary, as well as his service on the board of Frisbee Memorial Hospital. His passion for serving the community where he was born and raised was a defining aspect of his character.

An avid outdoorsman, Lin found joy in fly fishing, hunting, and spending time on the water aboard his boat, The Lady Vintage. Above all, Lin cherished moments surrounded by his family and friends, especially his beloved grandchildren.

Lin's infectious laugh and remarkable ability to connect with people and make them feel comfortable endeared him to all who knew him. His hilarious nature and gift for storytelling will be fondly remembered by those whose lives he touched.

Lin is survived by his loving wife, Karen Bergeron of South Berwick, ME; sons Joshua Bergeron & wife Samantha of Nottingham, NH, and Brian Bergeron of York, ME; blended family members David Smith & wife Sara of Hampstead, NH and Carrie Mayo of York, ME; grandchildren Ava, Jackson, Eleanor, Alex, Zack, Ana, Moira, Ardyn, and Marowe; brothers George Bergeron & wife Lorraine of Tennessee, Alan Bergeron & wife Patti of Sanford, ME, and Leo Bergeron & wife Jacqui of Gloucester, MA; and his sister-in-law Rhonda Bilodeau of South Berwick, ME, with whom he shared a home.

He was predeceased by his siblings Joan (Couture) of Connecticut, Louis Bergeron of Rochester, NH, Ann Torr of Dover, NH, Richard Bergeron of Rochester, NH, Guy Bergeron of Dover, NH, and Marc Bergeron of Rochester, NH.

Lin Bergeron's legacy of honor, service, and love will continue to inspire all who knew him. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

A celebration of his incredible life will be held in the Spring. Arrangements are by the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home-Crematory, Hampton. Please visit www.RemickGendron.com to view Lin's memorial website and sign his tribute wall.

Raymond Walter Fielek

July 31, 1944 – January 24, 2025



Raymond Walter Fielek, 80, passed away peacefully at his home on January 24, 2025, surrounded by the love of his family. He was born on July 31, 1944, in South Amboy, NJ, to the late Edward and Mary (Rondesko) Fielek and was raised in Sayreville, NJ, where he graduated from Sayreville High School.

Raymond earned his BA degree from Ricker College in Houlton, Maine. Following college, he proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy, achieving the rank of Lieutenant. He served in Vietnam aboard the USS Hunterdon County as part of Operation Game Warden, playing a vital role in keeping the rivers free of infiltration in the Mekong Delta. After returning from Vietnam, he was stationed at bases in New Orleans and San Diego.

Upon completing his service, Raymond began a career in education, teaching physics and mathematics. He started at Limestone High School in Maine before moving to Marshwood High School in Eliot, Maine, where he taught until his retirement in 1997.

Raymond was a true renaissance man with a passion for life and a thirst for knowledge. He was a world traveler, avid reader, and prolific writer of lyrical poetry and plays. He found joy in golfing, running, and amateur astronomy. Raymond was a trivia enthusiast, skilled card player, domino champion, and found exhilaration at the casino craps tables. Despite his many talents and interests, Raymond's greatest pride and joy were his three children, Brigitta, Heidi, and Travis.

He will be remembered as a humble and unassuming man with a sharp sense of humor, a warm smile, and a kind, generous spirit that touched everyone he met.

Raymond is survived by his loving and devoted partner, Donna Slack; his children Brigitta Thelemen and her husband David of North Carolina, Heidi Spry and her husband Stan of Nevada, and Travis Fielek and his wife Jennifer of Tennessee; and his beloved grandchildren Mary Hannah, Sarah, and James. He is also survived by his brother, Edward Fielek of Ohio, and his nieces Lisa, Patricia, and Christine, along with their children.

His family would like to thank Beacon Hospice of Portsmouth for their wonderful care and support first to him and his family these last few months. Raymond will be terribly missed, he was incredibly generous of his time and his love and will be remembered with fondness by those who knew and love him.

Services are private under the direction of the Maliszewski Memorial Home. A private burial will take place at St. Stanislaus Cemetery in Sayreville, NJ with his parents and grandparents.

Wayne Aubrey Jacobs

September 7, 1936 - April 3, 2025



Scarborough – It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Wayne A Jacobs. He was a man of faith and loved his country. He was well cared for by the nursing staff at the Maine Veterans Home in Scarborough Maine.

Wayne was born on September 7 in Pittsfield Maine where he learned his love of animals and the outdoors. His favorite pets were a squirrel that he tamed and a crow that he taught to talk.

Wayne loved his country so much he enlisted in the Army and served during the Korean War. He loved to share his experiences of Korea to many people throughout his life. Upon returning from war, he became a successful salesman and resided in Dover, NH and later in Barrington, NH where he raised three children with his first wife Suzanne.

In 2010 he married Lois Lane and lived in Berwick, Maine. Wayne had many passions including hunting, Red Sox and Sea Dogs baseball, Ogunquit Playhouse and going to Church on Saturday afternoons.

Wayne leaves behind his wife Lois, two sons Chris Jacobs (Karen) of Milton, NH and Marc Jacobs (Debbie) of South Berwick, Maine and one daughter Nanci Taylor of Dover, NH, and 6 grandchildren: Amanda, Catherine, Sarah, Jacob, Joseph, and Elizabeth (Lizzie), a sister Lois Diane and his brother Richard.

Services will be held at St Martin's Parish, 120 Maple Street Somersworth, NH 0387, on Thursday April 10 at 1:00PM with burial later in the spring at New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen, NH. Family flowers only, donations can be made to the charity of your choice or to the Maine VA Home in Scarborough, Maine.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

- Robert “Gabby” Place (deceased), for providing me the foundations for this yearbook.
- Hank Hansen and Roger Guptil, for providing “back-up” photography when I was unable to make an event.
- To those who have responded to my inquiries for information.
- 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

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Photo by Joyce St. Pierre