

On November 11th, 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 post 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 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.

Ms. Savannah Cook

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).