



*Reverend Joseph  
Lamarre Memorial  
Post 2197  
Topsham, Maine*

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**

*Post Trumpeter*

**October 2023 - Pg #1**

**Volume VII, Issue #5**

### **Post 2197 Receives National Recognition**

VFW National recognized our post as the #1 post in Maine for “Community Support.” This was based on volunteer activity for the year Jul 1st, 2022 to Jun 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. We are honored to receive this award, & proud of our members that made it happen. Our members volunteered 3126 hours, with a large portion being the V. E. T. S. Inc. mobile shelter program led by Junior Vice-commander Ed Harmon. People also volunteered at Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program (MCHPP), Meals on Wheels, local churches, Topsham Fair Association, Mid-Coast Veterans Resource Center, community clean-ups, & assisting fellow veterans.



We also donated \$7543 to MCHPP, Tedford Housing, Maine Paws for Veterans, youth sports, scholastic programs, veteran support & others. National gives a monetary value for volunteer hours & miles traveled. In total they credited us with \$106,930 in support. In the photo, Dept. of Maine CO John Bouchard presents a plaque from National. From L-R : QM Brown, JVC Harmon, Maine CO Bouchard, & CO Stevens.

*We do make a difference!*

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### Food Drive

Our community support for the new year is underway, including a successful food drive in August. We collected 472lbs of food & \$908 for Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program. Thanks to Dale Brown, Ed Harmon, Davielle Hawks, John Kennedy, Mitchell Mrvichin, Archie Pelley, Arthur Richardson, & Roger Stevens for participating. We are also sponsoring a soccer team in Topsham youth leagues, & plan to participate in the annual Topsham “Trunk or Treat” event at Halloween.



L – R: John Kennedy,  
Dale Brown, Ed  
Harmon, & Arthur  
Richardson



CO Stevens delivers  
food & check for \$908 to  
Edan Martin of  
MCHPP.

### Scholastic Programs

VFW's scholastic programs remain open until Oct 31<sup>st</sup>. Students from SAD 75, Brunswick, Lisbon, Durham, & home schooled are invited & encouraged to enter. The Topic for this years high school level, the “Voice of Democracy” program is : “What Are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?” For Junior High students, the “Patriot’s Pen” program topic is “How Are You Inspired by America?” We will award 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> place cash awards for each program & sponsor the winner of each in District competition. Make your children, grandchildren, & neighbor kids aware of these programs. We have entry forms available, contact us. They can also be downloaded from the VFW website.

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**Membership**

We're at 79% of last year's total. We hope all who pay annually will stay with us. Currently, no one has let their membership expire. That's great news, thank you for staying with us! Since our last issue, we have gained three new VFW members: Otto Milbourne, Richard Smith, & Lowell VanWinkle. Four existing members have transferred in: Gabriel McCoy, Will Laviolette, Mitchell Mrvichin, & Alfred Sherman, Jr.



**Missing!**

We have a great post, with great members. But, we are missing one important aspect of the VFW culture. We do not have an Auxiliary. We would be much more complete & more effective in our support efforts. So, who can belong to the VFW Auxiliary? Anyone at least 16yrs old who is a spouse, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, or sibling of someone who is, or was [deceased] eligible to be a member of the VFW. Eligible veteran does not have to be a VFW member. Our post is willing to assist in the formation of an auxiliary. Please pass on to your family members. We want an auxiliary.

**Friday Dinners**

We'll be doing Friday night dinners at the Topsham American Legion again in November. Our tentative selections include steak, deep fried haddock, pot roast, spaghetti, lobster rolls, & baked scallops. Check our face book page for final selections & dates. This is our principal fund raiser. Come have a good meal, & if you have time, we can always use a little extra help in the kitchen.



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**Safety & Well Being**

Fall is here, for those of you who believe in them, it's time to think about vaccinations. Flu season will be beginning, & there is a new Covid booster you might want to look into. Do you know how long it's been since you had a tetanus shot, if not you probably should talk to your doctor about that. Oh, & for those of you who are a little more on the senior side, have you had a pneumonia shot. How about shots for shingles? Shingles are extremely painful & can be deadly.

**Upcoming Events**

We have a busy period ahead of us. Anyone who can spare 2 or 3 hours, please consider attending & participating. First is an absolute treat. We will participate in Topsham's annual "Trunk or Treat" event on Halloween. In addition to some candy, we give kids coloring books & crayons. Interacting with the kids is really special, we always have a great time. On Veterans Day we will be laying a wreath at the "Rock" at Brunswick High School. Member Frank Slinger has been researching the WWII & Korea students killed in action & has a special ceremony planned. A wreath will also be placed at the Veterans Plaza on the Brunswick Mall. Additionally, we will be at the Cook's Corner Shaw's for our "Buddy Poppy" event.

**Veteran Homes**

Congratulations & thanks to our Congressional delegation for getting the VA to commit to paying to help keep Maine Veterans Homes open. A federal law was passed several years ago authorizing the VA to help fund our veterans homes. But, the VA never put the funding in place. Our Maine VFW met with our Congressional team in March, & emphasized the importance of getting the VA to release the funding. Maine is the only state affected by this law. Our Congressional team responded, pushed the VA & got their commitment to release funding, including retro-active. A huge victory for us.