



*Reverend Joseph
Lamarre Memorial
Post 2197
Topsham, Maine*

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Post Trumpeter

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Post Giving

Our Post takes pride in supporting our fellow veterans & the community. Because of the fund-raising efforts of our members doing Friday night dinners & a “Buddy Poppy” event we have made the following donations since the last newsletter. A veteran needed fencing repairs for her dog to run as she was unable to exercise her service dog. We donated \$250 & QM Brown did the repairs. We also donated: \$500 to “VAVS” Togus, \$200 to Maine Paws for Veterans, \$500 to Maine Veterans in Need, \$1500 to Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program, \$750 to Tedford Housing, & purchased 12 pillows for Veterans Inc. in Lewiston. \$850 was also awarded to the top 3 contenders in the annual “Voice of Democracy” scholastic competition. During the past 2 months 15 members logged 1878 volunteer hours supporting veteran & community programs.

We do make a difference!

Veterans Day



9 members placed wreaths in Brunswick. At 1100hrs a wreath was placed at the High School “Rock,” JA Frank Slinger provided a touching tribute for 2 WWII KIA graduates. Then a wreath was placed at the Veterans Plaza. John Secone & QM Brown place the wreath at the plaza with CO Stevens looking on.

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Community Activity



Post members from top left, Joe Obrin, Louis Larios, Archie Pelley, Mike La Marca, along with (not pictured), Dale Brown, Eric Cooper,

John Secone, & Roger Stevens rang bells on Nov 22nd on behalf of the Salvation Army. We raised \$1742 for their holiday campaign. Our Quartermaster, Dale Brown, is also working with Home Depot & a local contractor to see if a veteran in Topsham can get a new roof. His current roof is leaking. He is working through the paperwork & checking grants for funding.

Coming Events

We are currently working with members of the Bowdoin College hockey team on the 3rd annual Military & Veterans Appreciation game at Bowdoin on Jan 17th @ 3pm against Wesleyan University. There is no charge to attend, & there will be many veteran organizations & support programs in attendance for information. We will also be setting up the organization & support program exposition at the Winter Classic softball tournament at the Topsham American Legion on Feb 14th. Both events are a good chance to meet fellow veterans & get valuable information.

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MVN

Maine Veterans in Need, MVN, assists veterans in crisis. Its stated mission: "Our mission is to assist veterans and their dependents who are in need, to advocate for those in active crisis/emergency, to prevent homelessness, and to help those who are homeless to transition into stable housing." MVN was begun by Past VFW State Commander James Bacheldor, & is currently managed by David Patch, who is a member of Post 2197. Dave is fully committed to this program 24/7. The majority of MVN's funds come from Topsham Legion Post 202's Winter Classic softball tournament.

Membership



Membership is currently at 93% with 107 members. We need 8 for 100% & we still have 18 to renew between now & June 30th. Please welcome new member, Derek Anderson. We still need new members though. Tell your veteran friends about our local activities, & what the VFW does in Washington. When you're out & about, if you see someone with a veteran hat or tee, thank them for their service & ask them if they belong to the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

2025 In Review

Nationally, VFW members filled the halls of Congress demanding "Honor The Contract!" That's the contract we signed when we enlisted that stated the United States would provide the benefits necessary to sustain us regardless of what condition we were in at discharge. In Maine, our Legislative Lead, Steve San Pedro, led the VFW in pushing Maine to be the 3rd state to pass an anti claim-shark law. At the Post, we were the #1 Post in Maine for community support for the 3rd year in a row. We also hit an all time high for membership at 115 members. Be proud you are a member of the VFW!

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Safety & Wellbeing

An experience from a couple of days ago set the topic for this issue. Winter driving! I was driving down a rural road & saw an icy patch in front of me, in a shady area. Fortunately, the ice was white not black. The shady spot was on a rise & I was in a rear wheel drive vehicle. As I went up the rise the car lost traction. I had to back down to a dry section, but as I was backing, the crown of the road started sending me to the side. I was able to control the slide & make it to the bottom. Once at the bottom, I centered the car on the road to straddle the crown. I could see far enough ahead for oncoming traffic. I applied a little more speed, but still slow enough to control the car if it slid & made it on through. The point is; Maine's roads are notorious for significant crowns to allow water run-off. Under slippery conditions, vehicles can easily run-off as well. And how about 4-wheel drive? Many of us have 4-wheel drive trucks. If you try to take a corner at speed, the front drive wheel keeps spinning, loses traction, & wants to keep going straight. When turning at speed, let off the gas & let that front drive wheel bite. All wheel & front wheel drives might be a little better in light snow, but they are no match for ice either. Just a couple of things to think about, there are more. Please stay aware of conditions & stay safe.

MVRC Services

What's available at the Mid-Coast Veterans Resource Center in Brunswick? First, now that his new assistant is VA accredited, VFW Service Officer James Ware is again holding appointments monthly. A VA mental health counselor is in weekly. Paul Loveless, accredited RAO officer is in daily. Twice monthly, a Martin's Point Tri-care rep is in. A VA rep was coming in monthly, but stopped during the government shutdown. Hopefully that will start up again. Daily from 9 – 4 a fellow veteran is there to take calls about services offered, or information about programs around the state. Call the center at 406-4103.