



# Hollis VFW

## April 2025 Newsletter

Vol. 35 Issue: 4

Serving Hollis and Brookline

April 2025

*The Hollis VFW meets the third Sunday of each month at 7 PM. Meetings are at the American Legion Hall, 38 Main Street, Brookline, NH.*

*You can also attend via Zoom at:*

*<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/86999020485?pwd=bIA2NlZNMFo5cFhwVHlKUKVWtXMxZz09>; Meeting ID = 86999020485;  
Passcode: q47TDf; or, by Phone = (646) 558-8656; Meeting ID = 86999020485#.*

*If you wish to join or have questions about the VFW, please call one of the Post Officers.*

**Next Meeting: 20 April @ 7:00 pm**



### **March Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Open Time:** 7:04 PM at the Brookline American Legion Hall and via Zoom. 7 members were present. Bruce Richards from Manchester, NH, and a VFW member in Texas. There were 24 friends and family in attendance for the Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy awards presentation.

A motion was made to suspend the meeting to conduct the awards ceremony. Awardees were presented with certificates and gift cards. The Post is very proud of these students and thank their families for raising such outstanding citizens.

The meeting was called back to order.

**Reading of the Minutes:** A motion was made by Bruce Moran to dispense with the reading of the February meeting minutes since they were published in the newsletter and sent to all members. Greg d'Arbonne seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Post Quartermaster's Report:** The Quartermaster's Report was read. There were two deposits; one from National for dues for \$3.50 and the other was \$7.27 from Interest. Disbursements for the month were: \$225 to renew nonprofit status; \$819.40 to George Robinson for reimbursement of PP and VOD award costs; a renewal for \$32; \$300 to pay CPA to do Post taxes; and \$320 for Post expenses for a total of \$1,696.40. Bruce Moran made a motion that the Quartermaster's report be accepted as read, pending audit; seconded by Bob Smith, and unanimously approved.

#### **Correspondence:**

- The Post received a thank you letter from Veterans Count for the Post's donation.
- The Post received a thank you note from Eugene Bourgeois's friend thanking the Post for supporting Eugene's funeral.

### **Committee Reports:**

- **Patriot's Pen Program:** Next year's theme has been released by National.
- **Voice of Democracy Program:** Next year's theme has been released by National.
- **Military Descendant Scholarship:** Nothing to report.
- **Service Officer:** Greg d'Arbonne drove Mark Tigert to and from Dartmouth-Hitchcock Hospital in Lebanon this past week. Mark had a procedure that required him to stay overnight and not drive himself home. Mark is now resting at home..

### **Comrade or Family of Comrade in distress:**

- Jeff Smith's wife, Cheryl, passed away the other day. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion that the Post make a \$100 donation in Cheryl's memory to Saint Jude's; seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. Greg will send the link for the donation to Chris Lussier so Chris can make the donation for the Post. The members expressed their condolences to Jeff and their family.
- Kerry Spangler was not able to attend the meeting as he is recovering from recent dental work.

**Membership:** Nothing to report.

**Remember National Home:** Prayer was said for the National Home and residents.

**General Orders:** As distributed by the Department and District and posted on the Department website.

### **Old Business:**

- Greg d'Arbonne discovered the bricks for the Global War on Terror pathway is being built in Manchester. Greg made a motion that the Post does not buy a brick; seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved.
- 990N for taxes: Chris Lussier stated that the income for the Post this past year exceeded the requirements for the short form 990N, so he filled out the long form with the CPA. Chris paid \$300 to a CPA for this year's taxes and the Post reimbursed him. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion that the Post pay the taxes and expenses for submitting the

taxes each year in perpetuity; seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved.

### **Memorial Day 2025:**

- Greg d'Arbonne will write a letter to the Select Board and the Hollis Town Band to notify them the Hollis VFW is running the ceremony this year and will provide them the details.
- George Robinson will contact the local Scout Troops and ask for their support for the ceremony. He has already contacted the High School Honors Choir and asked if they can support the event.
- Greg will provide a podium.
- Chris Lussier will provide the PA system.
- Chris and Bruce Moran will provide the "Battlefield Cross" items.
- Chris Lussier will ask Reverend Rasmussen to give the Invocation.
- The Post needs to advertise this event in the Hollis-Brookline Rotary online newspaper and Facebook.
- The Post needs to ask the Rotary about the geraniums that go to each cemetery.
- Chris stated he will look at more durable flags that can be placed at the Beth Abraham Cemetery as the wind from the area tears the graveside flags more there than at other cemeteries in Town.

### **New Business:**

- The Veterans with the 8th Graders at the Hollis-Brookline Middle School will be on 4 April from 9:15 to 12:15. Lunch will be served. All are invited.
- The Post will present the check to the High School Civics Class on Wednesday after the breakfast.
- The Brookline American Legion Flag Retirement Ceremony will be 21 June at 10 AM.
- George Robinson stated that with the Nation's 250th Birthday coming up next year, the Post should purchase banners celebrating this event and place them at the major crossroads in both Towns, a total of 8 banners. George

will investigate what needs to be done and permissions that are needed.

- At the next Post meeting, elections for Post Officers will be held. All Officers stated they would be willing to stay in their position for another year.

**Good of the Order:**

- Andy Seremeth stated that the Town of Hollis Cemetery Commission is looking for grave markers that were sent to be cleaned years ago. He said they will need to order more.

Chris Lussier will provide Andy with the details to order the ones the Post uses for members who have departed.

- Chris Lussier stated his dog, Bandit, passed away. Chris and his wife, Deb, donated Bandit's toys, leashes, bedding, etc. to Operation Delta Dog.

**Closing:** The meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM. The next meeting is 7:00 PM, Sunday, 20 April at the Brookline American Legion Hall, Brookline, NH and by Zoom.

## **News For & From Members**

### **Calendar of Events**

Added/Changed events are highlighted in yellow.

#### **April 2025**

- 20 April: Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 24 April: Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.

#### **May 2025**

- 3 May – Day of Service Event – Bruce Moran porch safety rails and steps.
- 5 May – Post Annual Report due completion.
- 18 May – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 22 May – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 26 May – Memorial Day activities
- 30 May – Scout spaghetti supper

#### **Jun 2025**

- 14 June – US Army birthday celebration at Foxboro Stadium.
- 15 June – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.
- 21 June – Flag retirement ceremony. Details to follow.
- 26 June – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall.

### **Please Make Sure You Renew ASAP**

If you pay annually for your membership, we ask that you renew as soon as possible so we can meet our numbers for the year now and not have to rush at the end of the year (which is June). You can renew at a meeting, or you can renew online (<https://www.vfw.org/OMS/QuickRenew.aspx>), but please renew!!

## **News of Interest to Veterans**

### **Help Build the Veteran Database at the NH Veterans Heritage Learning Center**

At the NH State Veterans Cemetery is the "Veterans Heritage Learning Center" to help people learn about NH's rich military history. One of the active displays is the Remembrance Station where veterans or family/friends can enter an entry of their military history and other information - as much or as little as they want. Photos of people and items can also be added to the entry.

Please take a few minutes to enter your name and military, etc. bio info (whatever you'd like to share). OR enter a family member who is/was a veteran or a friend. Here's the link to Veteran Bio Input Form: <https://www.vhlc.org/stories-of-service-station/veteran-bio-form>.



VFW Posts and veterans from coast to coast are signing up for the fourth annual VFW Day of Service, which kicks off May 3, 2025. [Will you join them?](#)

If you're wondering what kinds of events to plan, or if you have other questions, look no further. Our website has lots of great resources.

- This handy [FAQ page](#) has answers to all your questions.
- [Check out the list of 100 ideas](#) for Day of Service.
- If you're on a solo mission, we've got you covered with [individual service project ideas](#).

Let us know you're all in. [Sign up for 2025](#) so we can keep you in the loop and track your event!

**[Sign Up for Day of Service 2025](#)**

## Building Strong Families – March 2025 Edition



### **Celebrating a Century of Service: 100-Year Anniversary Gala**

VFW National Home's 100-Year Anniversary Gala on February 8, 2025, was truly a night to remember. Two hundred supporters, alumni, and staff of the VFW National Home gathered at the DoubleTree by Hilton in downtown Lansing to commemorate the milestone: 100 years of dedicated service to veterans and their

families! This momentous event was not just a celebration; it was a heartfelt acknowledgment of the unwavering commitment to honoring our veterans and their sacrifices.

Despite her absence, Michigan's Governor Gretchen Whitmer made her presence felt by sending a heartfelt video congratulating the VFW National Home on this significant anniversary. She also took a moment to give a special shoutout to Buddy Poppy Layla, which brought an extra touch of warmth to the occasion. Brian Love, Director of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, read the Governors Tribute that was awarded to the VFW National Home. It was quoted as saying "With each passing year, this organization continues to leave an irreplaceable and life-changing mark on the lives of our valued and respected veterans and their families. The VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids serves as an inspiration to all and demonstrates the importance of community support across many generations".

**[Read our blog to learn more.](#)**



## From Service to Success: A Veteran's Journey to a Criminal Justice Degree

Every veteran has a distinct story shaped by their experiences. For many, that story includes a transition into education and personal growth. Today, we highlight a veteran who utilized Veteran Readiness and Employment Services (VR&E) to channel his military service into a future in criminal justice. After serving in the Army, he became a single dad, prioritizing his children's needs while juggling various jobs to support them. Once his kids were older, he decided to pursue a career in criminal justice – an area he was familiar with from his experience as a corrections officer and currently as a security guard.

**Read more about his journey on our [blog](#).**



## VFW & VFW Auxiliary Bus Trip to the VFW National Home

Join us on August 13, 2025, for a special day trip to the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, MI. See firsthand the vital work being done to support veterans and their families. Trip Details:

- Date: August 13, 2025

- Departure: 7:00 AM EST from the Columbus Convention Center
- Return: 7:00 PM EST
- Cost: \$75 per person (Includes transportation, meals, and snacks)

#### Why Go?

- Experience the mission of the VFW National Home through a 3-hour guided tour.
- Comfortable, stress-free travel in a premium motor coach.
- Connect with fellow VFW and Auxiliary members and support our shared mission.

#### What's Included:

- Round-trip transportation, lunch, dinner, and snacks
- Guided tour of the VFW National Home

**Reserve Your Spot Today!** Don't miss this chance to see the incredible impact of the VFW National Home. Click to register now!

Note: No refunds, but registrations are transferable. Questions?

Contact [info@vfnationalhome.org](mailto:info@vfnationalhome.org).

## 2024 Annual Report Now Available

We are excited to share our 2024 Annual Report, highlighting the incredible progress and achievements we've made in support of our mission. From serving more veterans and their families to making a tangible impact in our community, this report provides a comprehensive look at the strides we've taken, thanks to your continued support.

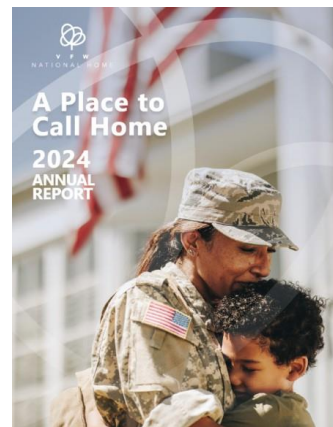
#### What's Inside:

- Key accomplishments and milestones
- Financial overview and transparency
- Stories from those whose lives have been touched by our work
- Plans for the year ahead

We encourage you to take a moment to explore the report and see the difference we've made together. Your dedication has been instrumental in making these successes possible.

**[View the 2024 Annual Report here](#)**

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our mission!





The National Home is here to support the families of actively serving military personnel, veterans, and relatives of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members. Whether it's one parent or both, with one child or many, we are ready to welcome and assist those who have given so much for our country.

If you know a family who could benefit from our services, we encourage you to reach out and let them know—we're here to help. Please direct them to our [website](#) to learn more and get in touch with us. Together, we can make a difference in their lives.



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VFW National Home | 3573 S Waverly Rd | Eaton Rapids, MI 48827 US

## **Points To Ponder**

*The views expressed in the following articles are deemed interesting enough by me to include in the newsletter. I take full responsibility and the content does not reflect the opinion of the members of the Post. Please contact me if these articles offend you. – Kerry Spangler*

Spring time is here!!! I wish someone would tell Mother Nature to make the changeover!!

Many thanks to Greg d'Arbonne for filling in as adjutant for me and collecting the meeting minutes!

Kerry Spangler

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### **Post Officers**

**Commander:** Mark Tigert - (240) 344-8291 [vfw11373cdr@proton.me](mailto:vfw11373cdr@proton.me)

**Senior Vice Commander:** Mark Andrews

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**Quartermaster:** Chris Lussier

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**Service Officer:** Bruce Moran

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**Junior Vice Commander:** George Robinson

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**Chaplain:** Bruce Moran

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**Adjutant:** Kerry Spangler

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**Post Website:** <http://www.hollisvfw.org/>

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