



Hollis VFW

January 2026 Newsletter

Vol. 36 Issue: 1

Serving Hollis and Brookline

January 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=bla2NlZNMFo5cFhwVHIKUkVWTXMxZz09>; 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: 18 January 2026 at 7:00 pm

December 21st Meeting Minutes

Meeting Open Time: 7:00 PM at the Brookline American Legion Hall and via Zoom. 9 members and 0 guests were present.

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

Post Quartermaster's Report: The Quartermaster's Report was read. General Fund Deposits included: \$19.59 from Interest; Donation from David Sullivan \$1200.00; Dues from National: \$3.50, Total deposits: \$1,223.09. Disbursements for the month were: \$320.00 to Patricia Dutra for cleaning services; \$740.00 for Lifetime membership dues; \$23.75 for 2 Eagle Scout Certificates; \$25.00 for new VSO mandatory donation; \$31.00 for checks; and \$50.00 for John Balfour for Hardy Hall cleanup after Veterans Day Ceremony. Total expenses were \$1189.75. The Relief Fund Deposits included: donations from Poppy Drive \$962.00;

Total Deposits: \$962.00. Disbursements: None; Total Relief Fund expenses: None. Venmo Deposits: None. Deductions: None. Bruce Moran made a motion that the Quartermaster's report be accepted as read, pending audit; seconded by Greg d'Arbonne, and unanimously approved.

Correspondence:

- The Post Quartermaster sent thank-you letters on behalf of the Post to:
 - David Sullivan for the very generous donation to the Post.
 - John Porter for the delicious Thanksgiving pies and for buying breakfast for the Weekly Veteran's Breakfast folks.
 - Anita Walker, Regent for DAR, for hosting the luncheon after the Hollis Veterans Day Ceremony at the Hollis Community Church.
 - Mike and Janelle Ledoux and the Market Place Diner for graciously hosting our weekly Veterans Breakfast and for covering Veterans' breakfasts in honor of Veterans Day.
 - The Gate City Casino to Gia Bonilla, for once again allowing our Hollis VFW the opportunity to participate in the charitable donations that

will greatly support the Veterans Community of Hollis and Brookline.

- **Emails from Paul Lloyd:**

- December Issues of Headquarters Bulletin, General Orders, and Planning Calendar.
- Instructions for Flag at half-staff for Pearl Harbor Day.
- Information on the new alternative baseball cap's availability.
- End-of year OMS shutdown on 31 December through 6 January.
- 30 Guns in 30 Days raffle.
- VAMC Christmas Party.
- VOD Banquet information.
- Concerning fraudsters preying on Veterans.

Committee/Program Reports: : Reporting is now accessed through the VFWNH.org website in the Login drop-down menu <Report Entry>. These reports are the latest in each category. (112 reports to date with 1012 hours of service).

- **Service Officer:** Nothing to report

- **Community Service:**

- 19,26 November, 3,10,17 December – Weekly Veteran's Breakfasts in Hollis with numerous veterans from the community.



- **Americanism:**

- 7 December - Members participated in the Wreaths Across Hollis ceremony including the master of ceremony chaplain playing of TAPS and wreath laying at the veteran grave sites. Great turnout from the Town of Hollis on a cold day with lots of snow on the ground including the sponsor two State

representatives and other distinguished guests.



- 7 December - Five members attended a ceremony at the Temple Beth Abraham Cemetery in Nashua where the latest casualty from Hollis Allen Soifert is buried. The ceremony included the reading of names, prayers, placing of stones and adding two markers to veterans who passed away in 2025. Members from the synagogue participated in the placing of the stones at each veterans' graves. Also attending was the State Representative Liz Barbour from Hollis and one VFW member who was friends with Allen in school. The snow was deep but was not a deterrence for placing the stones at each of the Veteran graves. The stones were decorated by the Post Quartermaster with the Star of David on one side and a Menara on the other.



- 13 December – 12 members participated in the 1st Wreaths Across Brookline Event. It was a success thanks to the efforts of Lynn Giblin who organized the event.

- **Youth Activities:**

- 12 December - Post Quartermaster met with Scout leader and scout (his son) to discuss upcoming fundraising opportunities and badge events (flag display). Also on topic was an upcoming Christmas caroling event for local elderly residents.

- **Legislative:**

- 5 December - Post Chaplain and Quartermaster attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Lovering Training Center for Operation Delta Dog who train service dogs for veterans. Many Vets and dogs were in attendance. While there we had audience with Liz Barbour the State Rep for our district. We discussed issues of importance for Veterans.



- **Safety (Home/Fire):** Nothing reported.

- **Veterans and Military Support:**

- 5 December - Post Chaplain and Quartermaster attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Lovering Training Center for Operation Delta Dog who train service dogs for veterans. Many Vets and dogs were in attendance.
- 11 December - Post Adjutant and Quartermaster visited elderly WW2 Veteran and Post member at his home. While there we discussed his long-term care and issues like transportation and assistance. His spirits have been down, but the visit was uplifting.
- 17 December – Post Adjutant took WWII Veteran wife to an event since neither of them have transportation.

- **Homeless Veterans:**

- 13 December – Post Adjutant participated in the pinning ceremony for a homeless, US Army, Vietnam Veteran who was in Hospice after being found very ill two weeks prior and was moved from the hospital ICU to Hospice Care. He was unresponsive during the ceremony until the singing of the US Army hymn and National Anthem when he kept trying to sit up. He passed away about 40 hours after the ceremony.

- **Hospital:** Nothing reported.

- **National Home:** Nothing reported.

- **Voice of Democracy programs:** No submissions.

- **Patriot's Pen Program:** We have about 121 entries narrowed down to 8 for final ranking in the post (1 for each 15 entries).

15 November – The 8 entries were reviewed and ranked. George Robinson received an invitation to access the program software. George Robinson submitted 8 Entries into the online scholarship app and forwarded to District 6 competition. Waiting for District 6 results.

- **Teach Scout:**

- 8 Members supported 20 members of Scout Troop 260 in singing Christmas carols for several residents at the Hollis Senior Center.

- **Military Descendant Scholarship:** George Robinson gave the announcement to the HBHS Guidance office for posting in Naviance as a scholarship opportunity. He will work on it after the end of the year.

- **Membership:** Membership percentage stands at 88.63% with 39 current members compared to prior year of 44 members.

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

- Mark Tigert discovered a tick, removed it, and now has a bullseye indicating Lymes Disease. It was evaluated and was too small to be Lymes.

- **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:

- Kerry Spangler proposed changes to the By-Laws to indicate meetings being the 3rd Sunday each month except for June being the 4th Sunday because of the conflict with Father's Day. Jim Belanger seconded the motion and was unanimously approved. Kerry Spangler has drafted the changes and sent the draft with the monthly Newsletter for review for approval at the July meeting. No comments received. Final copy signed and Kerry Spangler submitted to Department Adjutant Paul Lloyd. (OPEN)
- Kerry Spangler has developed a spreadsheet to use as a checklist for all events being worked on by the Post. Assistance in identifying all the components of all events will be required. (OPEN)
- Wreaths Across America Brookline - 13 December 2025. 12 members participated in the 1st Wreaths Across Brookline ceremony placing wreaths (stones for Jewish Veterans) at each of the graves. Stew Jackson provided TAPS. A tremendous turnout by the town of Brookline with about 60 citizens participating in placing the wreaths/stones. Lynn Giblin did a fantastic job organizing the event and is also organizing the event for 2026. (CLOSED)
- Wreaths across Hollis, snowy and very cold 7 December. 6 members participated in the Wreath Across Hollis ceremony. Stew Jackson provided TAPS. Greg d'Arbonne was the Master of Ceremony. Bruce Moran offered prayers. A wreath was also placed at the Alan Soiffert Memorial at the Hollis Brookline High School. 4 members participated in placing stones at the Veteran graves at the Temple Beth Abraham Cemetery in Nashua. (CLOSED)
- Chris Lussier made the required donation to the VSO. (CLOSED)
- Mark Andrews presented information on Operation High Flight (501 3c), a non-profit organization to support veterans, children's hospitals, first responders and inner-city youth through mentoring and other activities. The operation is looking for a store front and hangar space to support the program and is soliciting donations to support this program. They can sell flights as raffle prizes to help raise money for Veterans organizations. The VFW could buy flights and raffle them or give as gifts for \$125 to \$300. Mark Andrews made a motion to donate \$15,000 to help get the hangar space and store front set up for use, seconded by Greg d'Arbonne. After further discussion, Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to table the discussion until the next meeting to better understand the method and means for support, seconded by Mark Andrews and unanimously approved. (TABLED) Raffles and auctions are being used to support organizations. 100% of the proceeds are given to the hosting organization. Chuck Chapman asked Mark Andrews to reach out to the Hudson VFW Post to participate during their future meat raffles. Their goal is to hit 50 flights. The post will look at methods of support for this non-profit. (OPEN)
- George Robinson stated the SSGT Alan H. Soiffert Memorial monument at the Hollis-Brookline High School is beginning to lean forward. In the summer, we need to look at fixing the memorial by lifting it and providing a more solid base. Sean Brady will check with the Scouts to see if they have someone who needs a project. (TABLED)
- Christmas carols were sung by 8 Post members and 20 Scouts at the Hollis senior living facility on 16 December. Chris Lussier brought his guitar, and everyone seemed to enjoy the songs. (CLOSED)
- Citizen of the Year: Need to start submitting names of nominees to be ready to vote in February. Freddie Olson, who has opened the Gould Tavern to the public and preserved the tavern's history and memories, was nominated for consideration. (OPEN)

New Business:

- The Brookline American Legion Post 74 has now had to purchase insurance for the Post building at a cost of \$2875.76 per year. That amount is over half of the annual income of the post. Because the VFW uses the building as much as the American Legion, they are asking if the VFW could help pay for half of the building insurance cost of \$2775.76 (1387.88). Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to pay half the

insurance cost for coverage of the building. Bruce Moran seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. (OPEN)

- District Meeting is 25 January at the Merrimack VFW Post. Kerry Spangler will assemble the district report for presentation at the meeting. (OPEN)
- Quarterly report is due in January for the period ending 31 Dec 2025. Chris will present at the next meeting. (OPEN)

Good of the Order:

- Chris Lussier offered a prayer Rabbi Jon Spir-Savett and family after the loss of his father. May his father's memory always be a blessing.
- Mark Tigert has 30 guns for 30 days raffle tickets available.

- Brian Hanson, representing the Workerbee Fund, has offered services for building projects. Kerry Spangler will provide information for the veteran in Hollis that was previously requesting assistance. (OPEN)
- We still need to get project pictures to Jim Belanger to post on the website. Also, please send them to Kerry Spangler for use in the monthly newsletter.

Closing: Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM. The next meeting is at 7:00 PM, Sunday, 18 January 2026, 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.

Jan 2026

- 18 January – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 22 January – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 25 January – VFW District 6 Meeting 10:00 am at the Merrimack Post

Feb 2026

- 15 February – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 26 February – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall

Mar 2026

- 15 March – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 26 March – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall

Apr 2026

- 19 April – VFW District 6 Meeting 10:00 am at the Derry Post
- 19 April – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 23 April – 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>.

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

Don't forget our Wednesday Morning Breakfasts at 8:00 at the Hollis Marketplace Diner. All Veterans are welcome.

Reach out to other members to encourage them to attend the meetings...the more the merrier and the more we can be aware of and accomplish with more participation.

Get VFW project pictures and articles to Jim Belanger and/or to Kerry Spangler for inclusion in the VFW website and newsletter.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

**What does a real Army soldier have in common with a little green Army toy?
They'll both hurt you if you step on them.**

Kerry Spangler Adjutant

Post Officers

Commander: Mark Tigert – 603-219-9963 cdr11373@gmail.com

Senior Vice Commander: Mark Andrews
603-732-6113; agav8r1997@gmail.com

Quartermaster: Chris Lussier
603- 465-2676; clussier@tds.net

Service Officer: Bruce Moran
603-465-1040; bruce.moran@hotmail.com

Junior Vice Commander: George Robinson
540-809-8696; GMRobinson118@gmail.com

Chaplain: Bruce Moran
603-465-1040; bruce.moran@hotmail.com

Adjutant: Kerry Spangler
603-233-0266; KSpang8393@aol.com

Post Mailing Address: VFW Post 11373, c/o Commander, PO Box 1012, Hollis, NH 03049

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

The time is now to start thinking of potential VFW Day of Service Projects set to kick off 2 May 2026.



VFW DAY OF SERVICE 2026

NEW ALTERNATIVE CAPS!



FOR POST, DISTRICT AND DEPARTMENT

What would YOU do
if someone's life
depended on YOU
using an AED?

(Automated External Defibrillator)



A free presentation by Mr. Bill Wood

NHBEMS-FST & EMS – DOS
Preparedness & Special Projects

- Overview of our NH statewide AED program
- NH AED medical/legal protections
- Review of the AED equipment
- Demonstration of the AED, utilizing a PHILIPS "HeartStart OnSite" AED trainer unit
- Followed by a Q&A discussion

Recommended for high school age or older

On January 22, 2026 at 6:00PM

**At the Merrimack Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8641
282 Daniel Webster Hwy, Merrimack NH 03054**

Registration is required

Enter or paste a URL address. Your QR code will open this URL.

<https://doodle.com/sign-up-sheet/participate/0ccba08b-a145-453a-8c0a-e4ddd8b91e37/select>

Please register for AED Orientation

by January 21, 2026

