



Hollis VFW

July 2026 Newsletter

Vol. 36 Issue: 7

Serving Hollis and Brookline *July 2026*

*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: 19 July 2026 at 7:00 pm

June 28th Meeting Minutes

Meeting Open Time: 7:00 PM at the Brookline American Legion Hall and via Zoom. 8 members and no guests were present.

Reading of the Minutes: A motion was made by Bruce Moran to dispense with the reading of the March 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: \$8.65 for Interest; Total deposits: \$8.65. Disbursements for the month were: \$200.00 to Jeff Bissonnette for Memorial Day sound engineering; \$350.00 to George Robinson for Patriot Pen Award gift cards; \$640.00 to Patricia Dutra for cleaning services(May/June); \$90.95 for VFW Coins; and \$2.22 to VFW Store; Total disbursements were \$1,283.17. The Relief Fund deposits: Memorial Day Poppy drive \$1,667.11; VENMO Transfer \$330.00; . Total Deposits: \$1,997.11. Total Relief Fund expenses: \$0.00. Venmo Deposits:

\$232.40 from Poppy Drive. Deductions: VENMO Transfer to General Fund \$330.00. 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:

- Thank-you card from Fredricka Olson for her Citizen of the Year award.
- Letter from Rabbi Jon Shipiro for recognizing their Veterans at the Temple Beth Israel Cemetery for Memorial Day.
- Email from Tanya Prather thanking us for the Service Flags for the "We Honor Vets" ceremonies.
- Email from Paul Lloyd:
 - June Issues of Headquarters Bulletin, General Orders, and Planning Calendar.
 - Veterans Home Celebration
 - Birthday Celebrations
 - 4th Annual Cornhole Tournament
 - Upcoming VAMC Event
 - VA Open House
 - Beware of Fraudulent Texts and Calls
 - Unaccompanied Service for PFC Norcross

Committee/Program Reports: : Reporting is now accessed through the VFWNH.org website in the Login drop-down menu <Report Entry>. These reports include any submitted since last meeting. (221 reports to date with 1578 hours of service).

- **Service Officer:** Nothing reported.

- **Community Service:**

- Weekly Veterans' breakfast.
- 13 May - At the Operation Delta Dog event, eight members attended and the 5 Vets led the Pledge of Allegiance and sang the National Anthem and 6 service songs.
- 25 May - Post conducted a Memorial Day ceremony in Hollis. Many hours were spent in communication coordination planning and execution. Audience consisted of youths and adults alike. Boy scouts assisted in the ceremony as color guard and venue setup.
- 25 May - Post members participated in a Memorial Day service in Brookline NH. This ceremony was conducted by the Brookline American Legion. VFW provided ceremonial rifles, bugler, and speakers. Audience was adults and youths, and assistance was provided and coordinated with the local boy scout troop (honors and wreath-laying).
- 26 May - Post Quartermaster met with members of the Rotary Club to distribute geraniums and flags to decorate the cemeteries around the area in recognition of Memorial Day. The geraniums were donated by a local farm. The flags were purchased by the Post.
- **Americanism:**
 - 13 May - At the Operation Delta Dog event, eight members attended and the 5 Vets led the Pledge of Allegiance and sang the National Anthem and 6 service songs. Four members, the 'Singing Vets, led ~75 attendees in the National Anthem and the branch songs to open the graduation ceremony of a Veteran and dog team from Operation Delta Dog.
 - 17 May - The Hollis Brookline High School AP Civics class presented two examples of the competition events they performed as a "We the People" team. The students were well versed in the constitution and quickly

addressed questions by the Post members in attendance. The team also presented the Post with a thank you letter for the donations made to offset the travel cost of their trip.

- 18 May - Post members were invited to the High School Civics classes to describe military service patriotism and give some perspective on Memorial Day. They stayed a total of 3 class periods.
- 18 May - Quartermaster and Adjutant were invited to a Scout meeting where they gave a class on flag etiquette and patriotism. They also gave some perspective on Memorial Day. Audience was youths and adults alike. One scout won 20 bucks in a flag trivia contest.
- 22 May - Quartermaster was invited to a Middle School in Pepperell MA where he was the guest speaker at a Memorial Day assembly. He gave perspective on the real purpose of the day and told stories of soldiers who gave the ultimate. Audience was youths and adults alike.
- 23 May - Post members conducted a poppy drive/fundraiser at the local transfer station. Poppies flags and other patriotic items were given to the community while funds were collected and membership was pitched.
- 24 May - Post Quartermaster delivered a 'Memorial Day Message' to the Sunday Mass attendees at the St John Neumann Catholic church in Merrimack. He told the story of Pfc George Curley whose remains were returned to Laconia in 2025 after being identified through DNA technology. Curley died in a North Korean POW camp in 1951. This was to communicate the true significance of Memorial Day. Audience was adults and youths alike.
- 25 May - Post members participated in a Memorial Day service in Brookline NH. This ceremony was conducted by the Brookline American Legion. VFW provided ceremonial rifles, bugler, and speakers. Audience was adults and youths, and assistance was provided and coordinated with the local boy scout troop (honors and wreath-laying).
- 25 May - Post conducted a Memorial Day ceremony in Hollis. Many hours were spent in

communication coordination planning and execution. Audience consisted of youths and adults alike. Boy scouts assisted in the ceremony as color guard and venue setup.

- 13 June - VFW members joined American Legion counterparts to retire hundreds of tired and damaged American Flags as part of a Flag Day observance. Local Boy Scouts also participated in this effort. While doing this we discussed the etiquette of flag display handling and retirement.
- 13 June - Post Quartermaster collected discarded American flags from multiple locations and brought them to the American Legion for honorable disposal and retirement.
- 16 June - Post Junior Vice Quartermaster and Chaplain attended an awards assembly at the Hollis Brookline Middle School to present awards. While there they led the school in the Pledge of Allegiance. Adults and youth were present and participating.

• **Youth Activities:**

- 17 May - The Hollis Brookline High School AP Civics class presented two examples of the competition events they performed as a "We the People" team. The students were well versed in the constitution and quickly addressed questions by the Post members in attendance. The team also presented the Post with a thank you letter for the donations made to offset the travel cost of their trip.
- 18 May - Post members were invited to the High School Civics classes to describe military service patriotism and give some perspective on Memorial Day. They stayed a total of 3 class periods.
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- 3 June - Post Commander and Junior Vice attended a high school awards ceremony and presented four students with a VFW Challenge Coin. These students are joining the military and it's a new tradition to give them a coin symbolizing our support for their upcoming military service.
- 3 June - Post Commander and Junior Vice attended a high school awards ceremony and presented a student with a \$1000.00 'Veteran Descendant' scholarship. The student was selected based upon a panel of members who reviewed his application and essay.
- 16 June - Post Junior Vice Quartermaster and Chaplain attended an awards assembly at the Hollis Brookline Middle School to present awards. While there they led the school in the Pledge of Allegiance. Adults and youth were present and participating.
- **Legislative:** Nothing reported.
- **Safety (Home/Fire):** Nothing reported.
- **Veterans and Military Support:**
 - 19 April – Members voted to donate \$5000 second payment to Operation High Flight. Post contributed \$5000.00 to Operation High Flight (501 C3) to support incentive rides for PTS Veterans in a Vintage Stearman Biplane.
 - 19 May – Two members attended the Hospice We Honor Vets pinning ceremony for an 84-

year-old career Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 Viet Nam veteran.

- 23 May – Post members conducted a poppy drive/fundraiser at the local transfer station. Poppies flags and other patriotic items were given to the community while funds were collected and membership was pitched.
- 26 May - Post member did some grocery shopping for resident WW2 Veteran 97 years old. He no longer drives. He is a member of the Post.
- 27 May - Veterans breakfast in Hollis. Present was the organizer of the Holiday Cards for troops and a Navy Veteran friend with a Delta Dog companion. We exchanged goodwill and discussed the good outcome of our Memorial Day ceremonies.
- 10 June - Post Quartermaster and Post member picked up a WW2 Veteran member and brought him to (and from) the Veterans breakfast weekly event in Hollis.
- 11 June – Presentation of the Service Flags to the Community Hospice House in Merrimack for the “We Honor Vets” ceremonies.
- 17 June - Post members met with staff of Operation Delta Dog at our weekly Veterans breakfast. While there we discussed upcoming events where we will be supporting their efforts.
- 17 June - Two Post members picked up a WW2 Veteran member to bring him to the weekly Veterans breakfast
- **Homeless Veterans:** Nothing reported.
- **Hospital:** 19 May - Members visited with Viet Nam Veteran CWO4 and his family at the Fairview Hospital in Hudson NH.
- **National Home:** Nothing reported.
- **Voice of Democracy programs:** Nothing reported.
- **Patriot’s Pen Program:**
 - 16 June - Post Junior Vice Quartermaster and Chaplain attended an awards assembly at the Hollis Brookline Middle School to present winning Patriot’s Pen awards. Students were presented with their certificates and cash card prizes from both Post and District.

- **Teach Scout:**

- 18 May - Quartermaster and Adjutant were invited to a Scout meeting where they gave a class on flag etiquette and patriotism. They also gave some perspective on Memorial Day.
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- **Military Descendant Scholarship:** George Robinson presented award to the winner, Genevieve Scales at the Senior Awards Ceremony (3 Jun).



- **Membership:** Membership percentage stands at 95.45% with 42 current members compared to prior year of 44 members.

Comrade or Family of Comrade in distress:

- Allison Butler's husband, Walter, is in Stage 4 cancer. Prayers for her and her family.
- George Robinson's nephew's, HM2 Nicholas Daly, deployment has been extended and is still currently deployed at sea. Let's keep him in our prayers.
- Andy Seremeht has a cousin deployed in the Middle East. Keep him in our prayers.
- Jeff Smith's cancer has returned and is halfway through radiation therapy it is going well. Keep Jeff in our prayers.
- Mark Andrews's wife is having breast cancer surgery. Keep her in our prayers.
- Andy Seremeth is having some procedures related to his cardiac issues.

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:

- Chris Lussier reported that he was notified that there will be an opening ceremony on the 4th of July beginning with a parade. Kick off ceremony at Monument Square. Chris Lussier will be the Master of Ceremony and Bruce Moran will be presenting his "Old Glory" recitation. Both the Hollis and the Brookline parade begin at 1000. Hollis Town Band has a concert on 1 July. We need to determine who is doing each of the parades. Those participating in the Brookline Parade will meet at Legion Hall before 9:30 or at the parade start at 0930 with step off at 1000. Declaration of Independence will be read at the ball fields after the parade. (OPEN)
- George Robinson stated the SSGT Alan H. Soifert 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. A Scout has volunteered to take on the project. He has been asked to provide a list of materials and will work on the monument when the weather warms up. Upon inspection, we are not sure if it really needs to be done. May want to consider doing the

landscaping around the monument for the Scout project. (OPEN)

- 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. Mark Andrews thanked the Post for the previous donation and identified the use of the money donated and the objectives met. Chris Lussier provided the second payment of \$5000.00. (OPEN)
- Chris Lussier identified something about our Venmo account. It is currently set up as a business account and needs to be changed to a charitable account with a non-profit profile with PAYPAL. The change will be made after the tax forms are filed. (OPEN)
- Operation Delta Dog thanked the Post by letter for being a 4-Star sponsor in 2025 and requested support in 2026 with their expansion of services. George Robinson suggested that we challenge other posts to donate and then match up to \$25,000 to potentially get more veterans served. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion for the adjutant to send the challenge to District 6 to donate with up to a \$25,000 match from Post 11373, seconded by George Robinson and unanimously approved. Kerry Spangler will send an email to the NH VFW District 6 Commander to issue the challenge to local posts. He also presented the challenge at the NH VFW District 6 meeting. Waiting for response from ODD for who has donated. Only one post has made a donation so far. (OPEN)
- Flag retirement and storage cleanup are scheduled for 13 Jun 2026 at 8:00 am. VFW needs two shelf units (Kerry Spangler purchased from Sam's Club). Scouts will shorten legs on tables to place their storage bins in the boiler room and the sump pump room. Both the ceremony and cleanup was completed. We need to identify VFW versus Legion Materials. (CLOSED)
- Greg d'Arbonne fixed the door to the basement that was damaged during a break-in. Thanks to Arlene d'Arbonne for cleaning up the mess.

Greg d'Arbonne will gather a list of costs for the repairs. (OPEN)

- Delegates for Department Convention 5-7 Jun – Mark Tigert, Kerry Spangler, Greg d'Arbonne. Kerry Spangler attended the convention. (CLOSED)
- Coins for Graduating ROTC and Enlisted students. Chris Lussier made a motion to purchase 5 coins for presentation to the students at the award ceremony up to \$150.00, seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. Coins were presented by George Robinson. (CLOSED)



- Honor U.S. Marine Corps Pfc. Edgar R. Norcross, 18, of Manchester, New Hampshire, 7 July service at Boscawen after remains were returned.
- Flag demo for the Scouts was done by Chris Lussier and Kerry Spangler 18 May

New Business:

- American Legion oil bill was received. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to pay half the cost, \$436.91, seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. (OPEN)

- ZOOM account is due in August \$169.95. Greg d'Arbonne made a motion to pay half the cost, \$84.95, seconded by Bruce Moran and unanimously approved. (OPEN)
- Need to start planning for the Veterans Day Ceremonies. Need to identify a guest speaker.(OPEN)
- VFW needs to put a sign out front of the Legion Hall to identify our meeting place. Greg d'Arbonne will investigate the costs).

Good of the Order:

- Gary Backus from Bedford VFW Post 8401 and Kerry Spangler from the Hollis Memorial VFW Post 11373 presented the 6 Service Flags to the Community Hospice House in Merrimack for supporting the "We Honor Veteran" activities and events.



- SWAM is hosting a gala at Tuscan Village, Salem NH. The Singing Vets will sing the service songs(3-9:00 pm, 12 July).
- Dr Laura Landeman-Garber informed Chris Lussier about a boy who is very sick and asked us for prayers.
- Greg d'Arbonne's Mother is turning 94 so he will be heading to hers right after the July 4th Parade.

Closing: Chris Lussier made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Greg d'Arbonne and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM. The next meeting is at 7:00 PM, Sunday, 19 July 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**.

Jul 2026 –

- 4 July – Parades at Hollis and Brookline – 1000
- 19 July – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 23 July – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall

Aug 2026

- 16 August – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 27 August – Brookline American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall

Sep 2026

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

Oct 2026

- 18 October – Hollis VFW Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Brookline Legion Hall
- 22 October – 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.

If you know anyone who is eligible to become a member, encourage them to join and get involved. Our membership is aging and we need younger members to get involved to ensure we have a collective voice in government decisions about veterans.

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.

Being a member of the VFW is not just about paying your dues. Get involved, attend meetings. We have ZOOM so you can attend from anywhere to find out what we are planning and doing!

If you have email addresses for Hollis Town personnel, the @hollisnh.org are now all changed to @hollisnh.gov.

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

**Where do they send you if you don't meet the requirements to be a Marine?
The Navy, where you're a sub-Marine.**

Kerry Spangler Adjutant

Post Officers

Commander: Mark Tigert – 603-219-9963 cdrl1373@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/>

E-mail addresses are for the use of the members to pass information and not to be sold or freely passed to others without formal consent of the member. No funds solicitation is authorized via e-mail.

Honoring those who served

Join us to connect with:

- Edward Cross Training Complex**
722 Riverwood Drive
Pembroke NH

If you need accommodations for this event please contact jobfair@nhes.nh.gov or call 603-229-4355 by July 8, 2026.

**Job seekers are encouraged to register but are not required to.
To register and view more information please visit: <https://jobfairs.nh.gov>**

<https://jobfairs.nh.gov>

click
scan to
register

Applicants self-referred or referred to this recruitment activity NTS staff are required to attend. Failure to attend could affect conditional receipt of unemployment benefit.



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American Job Center



Picture and/or video recordings may be used by ATEE for future promotion and/or for promotional purposes in the public domain. ATEE is a proud member of America's Most Fun Work and Fun Works. ATEE is an Equal Opportunity Employer and complies with the American with Disabilities Act. Salary and/or career are available upon request of individuals with disabilities.

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TIME: 2PM-SUNSET - Rain or Shine!!
We have a really big tent!!

INVITED: All Veterans and Active Service Members and their immediate families.
Proof of military service and pre-registration required.

Event and cookout are FREE!

Ride to the Summit for Sunset \$10.00 per person.
Tickets available at event only, first come, event attendees only.



DISTINGUISHED GUEST
Captain Robin Tyner
USN, Retired

and

Hike, Bike and Play at the Mt. Washington Auto Road
Military Resources · Amazing Cookout · Music and Prizes
Sunset Ride to the Top of Mt. Washington

CALL 603-915-1246 TO REGISTER

Questions or Donations, please contact:

Al or Kate Duncan (603) 915-6867 or (603) 915-1246



*This year's event is dedicated to
Women in the Military
Past and Present*



*Presented by
Volunteers for Veterans Inc.
a 501(c)(3) non-profit*

MISSION 250

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2026 | TUSCAN VILLAGE | SALEM, NH



FREE ADMISSION ★ FAMILY FRIENDLY ★ 2:00 PM – 9:00 PM



PRESENTED BY
SERVICE
CREDIT UNION
★★★★★

Join us for an afternoon and evening celebrating America's 250th Birthday while honoring the men and women who have served our nation. From military demonstrations and live entertainment to family activities and inspiring presentations, there's something for everyone!

MILITARY & FIRST RESPONDER DEMONSTRATIONS



- ★ NAVY SEAL DEMO
- ★ NAVY SEAL K9 DEMO
- ★ NH STATE POLICE
- ★ MANCHESTER & SALEM POLICE

MISSION 250 FITNESS CHALLENGE



- ★ MILITARY & FIRST RESPONDERS
- ★ PUBLIC COMPETITION
- ★ PT WITH THE NAVY SEALS

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT



- ★ FINDING MOLLY
- ★ THE SINGING VETS
- ★ PATRIOTIC PRESENTATIONS
- ★ FIREWORKS FINALE AT 9PM!

CAR SHOW & PARADE OF CARS



- ★ EXPLORE A COLLECTION OF CLASSIC PRE-1970 VEHICLES
- ★ CAR SHOW & PARADE!

MEET AMERICA'S HEROES



- ★ NAVY SEALS
- ★ SPECIAL OPERATIONS
- ★ VETERANS & ACTIVE-DUTY
- ★ FIRST RESPONDERS

VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS



VISIT WITH 40+ ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING SUPPORT & RESOURCES FOR VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES.

FAMILY FUN FOR EVERYONE



- ★ FACE PAINTING
- ★ PATRIOTIC CRAFTS
- ★ DUNK A SEAL
- ★ BALLOON TWISTING
- ★ 360 PHOTO BOOTH
- ★ KIDS ACTIVITIES

HONOR OUR HEROES



HONOR SOMEONE WHO HAS SERVED BY ADDING THE NAME OF A VETERAN OR ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBER TO OUR VIRTUAL WALL OF HONOR & REMEMBRANCE.

SPECIAL GUESTS & FEATURED SPEAKERS



- ★ VETERANS & GOLD STAR FAMILIES
- ★ MILITARY LEADERS
- ★ AUTHORS & ATHLETES
- ★ STORIES OF SERVICE & RESILIENCE

MILITARY DISPLAYS



- ★ BLACK HAWK DISPLAY
- ★ MILITARY VEHICLES
- ★ POLICE VEHICLES

FREE ADMISSION ★ FAMILY FRIENDLY ★ FUN FOR ALL AGES ★ ALL TO SUPPORT OUR VETERANS!