

VETS' NEWS

Saturday, January 6, 2018

[CLICK HERE](#) to go to the Worcester County District 4 American Legion website
[CLICK HERE](#) to send email to the VETS' NEWS editor

MASSACHUSETTS LEGION POST DELIVERS WARMTH ON A COLD CHRISTMAS DAY



American Legion Family members of Capt. Lester S. Wass Post 3 in Gloucester, Mass., spent their cold, snowy Christmas Day spreading warmth to veterans, the elderly, shut-ins and those staying in a local homeless shelter.

Post 3 Legion Family members and other community members braved the adverse weather conditions and delivered more than 445 ham dinners to residents in need living in the communities of Gloucester, Rockport, Manchester, Ipswich, Essex and Beverly. And they cooked and served another 45 meals at the post home. The post has been sponsoring this free Christmas dinner for decades.

"We at Post 3 want our fellow citizens, especially shut-ins, elderly and veterans, to know that you don't have to be alone on Christmas Day. You have Legionnaires and fellow citizens who care and want to make a difference," said Post 3 Commander Mark Nestor. "The holiday meal

is about those we are able to reach out to in a small way and brighten their lives."

Nestor said the credit of cooking, serving and delivering the meals goes to the more than 65 volunteers

"The volunteers exemplified in so many ways the true spirit and meaning of Christmas and especially of this community that I am proud to call home," Nestor said. "Giving unselfishly of themselves for the benefit of others. I cannot begin to express to these many volunteers how proud I am of them and how they unhesitantly rose to the occasion to ensure that The American Legion Post 3 kept its promise on this cold and wintry Christmas Day."

Post 3 is the only organization on Cape Ann that delivers meals during the holidays, according to Nestor. The post fulfills the same efforts for Thanksgiving and Easter. (*National American Legion news article*)



LETTER (WORCESTER TELEGRAM & GAZETTE): CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR VETERANS ANOTHER SUCCESS

The Hiram O. Taylor Post 189 American Legion in Sterling must thank everyone that made donations for our Christmas Gifts for Veterans Program. With all the donations received, we were able to put together very nice gift bags for the veterans in Sterling Village and Oakdale Rehabilitation. The veterans who received the gifts really appreciated them. Also, the members who work to pack the bags and then participating with delivery get a reward seeing the pleasure of seeing the veterans who received the gifts. This year, we had 45 veterans who had their day brightened.

This was our fifth year and, with all the rewards that all involved received, we will continue as long as our members and the public continue to participate.

Again, our sincere thanks to everyone that made donations that made the Christmas Gift Program a great success.

Robert Temple
Past Commander
Hiram O. Taylor Post 189
Sterling



RED CROSS NEEDS BLOOD DONATIONS

DEDHAM – The American Red Cross is urging eligible donors to give more life to patients now and into the new year by giving blood or platelets.

Donations decline during the time between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, when busy holiday schedules cause regular donors to be less available to give and many blood drives may be canceled due to severe winter storms. Last year, nearly 64,000 fewer blood and platelet donations were given through the Red Cross during the seven weeks from Thanksgiving through the first week of January than the average during the rest of the year.

Blood is perishable and can only be replenished by volunteer donors. Red blood cells, the most transfused blood product, must be transfused within 42 days. Platelets, the tiny cells that form clots and help stop bleeding, must be transfused within just five days. More than half of all platelet donations go to cancer patients who may need platelet transfusions to prevent life-threatening bleeding during chemotherapy.

All blood types are needed this winter. Platelet donations are especially encouraged the first week of the new year, which is among the most difficult to collect enough platelets to meet patient needs. Donation appointments can be quickly and easily scheduled by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting www.redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

As a special thanks for taking the time to donate, those who come to give Dec. 21 through Jan. 7 will receive a long-sleeved Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities in Worcester County include: Jan. 9 from 1-6 p.m. at the **American Legion Post #129, 22 Elm St., Gardner.**

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, from a computer or mobile device. To get started and learn more, visit www.redcrossblood.org/RapidPass and follow the instructions on the site. (*Barre Gazette*)



DEPARTMENT COMMANDER'S SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE)

Mike Davis, Dept. of Mass. American Legion Commander

Saturday January 6th: SAL DEC Cherry Valley Post 443 11am

Sunday January 14th: District 5 County Council Meeting Post 39 Arlington 2pm

Monday January 15th: Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast Post 16 Mattapan 9am

Saturday January 20th: Department Executive Committee Meeting Sutton Post 414 11am Membership 1PM E Board

Sunday January 21st: District 10 Council Meeting Abington Post 112 10am

Tuesday January 23rd: National 21st Century Ad Hoc Committee Conference Call 8pm

Saturday January 27th: District 7 County Council Meeting West Roxbury VA 1pm

Sunday January 28th: Combined Meetings Sutton Post 414 10am

Sunday January 28th: District 7 Four Chaplains Ceremony-tbd

Thursday January 31st: District 6 County Council Meeting Braintree Post 86 7pm

Yours in Comradeship
Mike Davis Department Commander



Mike Davis
Department Commander



DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE

Maureen Cragen, Dept. of Mass. American Legion Auxiliary President

January 6, 2018 - DEC @Post 275 Chicopee.



VETERANS DAY 2017 ROCKPORT

ROCKPORT'S WITHAM TURNS 100 -- A FETE FOR WORLD WAR II VETERAN

ROCKPORT – As communities across Cape Ann gathered to honor the men and women who have served, or are serving, in the U.S. armed forces this past Veterans Day, one such hero has just observed a milestone.

Rockport resident and World War II veteran **George Witham (a member of Rockport American Legion Post 98)** turned 100 years old on Oct. 26, 2017 and, prompted by the anniversary, took the time to look back on a life well lived and offer some advice on living long and happily.

Born in Lynn, Witham often visited his grandmother in Rockport as a child by biking all the way from his hometown to her front door. His parents, originally from Cape Ann, moved the family back to Rockport when Witham was a sophomore in high school.

“There were 36 in my class. ... I graduated in 1936, and they were probably glad to see me go, too,” joked Witham, who remembers a Rockport from his childhood that differs from today’s town in several striking ways.

Witham recalled about five grocery stores, two banks, and significantly less traffic in Rockport when he was growing up. “I can remember my grandmother’s house up the street here,” he said, gesturing toward the south on Main Street. “There was a big flat rock out front, and I used to sit out there, and you could count the number of cars in an hour on one hand.”



George Witham poses with a flag presented to him during his 100th birthday bash Saturday, October 28, 2017.

Witham was inducted into the Army on March 14, 1941, and served four years and three months during the height of World War II. As the Allied forces waged first the North Africa campaign in Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia, and then toppled Italy’s fascist government in the ensuing Italian campaign, Witham played his own part in the international action. He served as a fire control instrument repairman in both North Africa and Italy before his discharge on July 12, 1945.

On his return to Cape Ann, Witham struck up a quieter life. He worked as a carpenter throughout Rockport and Gloucester, married his wife Mary, and had three children, all raised in Rockport.

“He was a great bowler,” said Mary Witham. “That was his activity.”

“Candlepin,” specified her husband.

The couple were devout members of the Rockport United Methodist Church, where the function room is now named in their honor, and **Witham is a longtime member of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion post.** In his younger days, Witham used to spend Veterans Day at the Legion, and he maintained a tradition of marching in the Memorial Day parade for years.

Now, the Withams have three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, three of whom are enrolled in Rockport public schools. Several family members traveled from their hometowns, ranging from New York to Tennessee, for the sake of celebrating Witham’s 100th birthday at a casual gathering, open to members of the community, at Pigeon Cove Circle.

While Witham has witnessed changes in Rockport since his childhood — an increase in traffic, shifting demographics, and unfamiliar names in the paper — he said he believes the community’s core character has weathered the decades without significant change.

“Generally speaking, it’s relatively unchanged. It’s still a quaint little New England town,” he said.

The expert in longevity offered a few choice words of wisdom to others intent on maintaining their health well into their later years: “Couple of glasses of wine at night. Red wine. And, stay on good terms with your wife. The answers are ‘Yes, dear’ and ‘No, dear.’” (*Gloucester Times*)



VETERANS DAY 2017

HANOVER

The Hanover Veterans Day ceremony included the dedication of the veterans memorial at the B. Everett Hall Field.



William Flynn (a member of Hanover American Legion Post 149), vice-chairman of the Veterans Memorial Committee, reads one of the many citations received during the dedication ceremony on Saturday, November 11, 2017.



Tim White, senior vice-commander of Hanover American Legion Post 149, bows his head during the invocation led by Father Chris Hickey at the dedication ceremony.



Navy veteran Frank Murphy (a member of Hanover American Legion post 149), is framed by the salute of Chief Petty Officer Ray Miller while they both salute the American flag during the national anthem during the Veterans Memorial dedication ceremony on Saturday, November 11, 2017. (WickedLocal Hanover)



VETERANS DAY 2017 SPRINGFIELD

SPRINGFIELD HONORS PAUL SEIFERT AS 2017 VETERAN OF THE YEAR



Paul Seifert



Drew Pajak and Louis Brault were in the audience.

SPRINGFIELD - Paul Seifert, who was described Thursday, November 9, 2017 as a dedicated, persistent advocate for local veterans, was named 2017 Veteran of the Year during a ceremony at City Hall.

The Springfield Veterans' Activities Committee presented its choice of Seifert for the annual honor

It's an extreme honor," Seifert said. "It was unexpected. I proudly accept it on behalf of all the veterans of the city of Springfield. Like everyone kept saying during the ceremony, I don't really do it for the accolades. I'm more of a behind-the-scenes kind of guy. I'm a doer, not a talker."

Seifert is an active member of various boards and veterans organizations.

He is the post commander of the American Legion Paper City Post 325 in Holyoke, and works as an investigator with the Springfield Veterans' Services Department.

In addition, he is a lifetime member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 801, and is a member of Forty & Eight, a veterans organization.

The Veteran of the Year award is given to a Springfield resident who is a veteran and volunteers his or her time to serve the veterans. (MassLive.com)

VETERANS DAY 2017 BEDFORD



On a cold, fall day, Bedford observed Veterans Day with a ceremony Saturday, Nov. 11, 2017 at Veterans Memorial Park. It was sponsored by the Patriotic Holiday Committee.

U.S. Army veteran Jim Voss, of Bedford American Legion Post 221, gives a speech during Bedford's Veterans Day ceremony on Saturday, November 11, 2017, at Veterans Memorial Park. (WickedLocal.com)

VETERANS DAY 2017 NORTH ADAMS



Above: Dennis St. Pierre, left, and DVC Tony Dias, right,



North Adams held a brief Veterans Day ceremony at the American Legion on Saturday, November 11, 2017. The parade was canceled because of the cold. American Legion Vice-Commander Anthony Dias was the speaker. (*iBerkshires.com*)



POST EVENTS

AND OTHER VETERANS ACTIVITIES



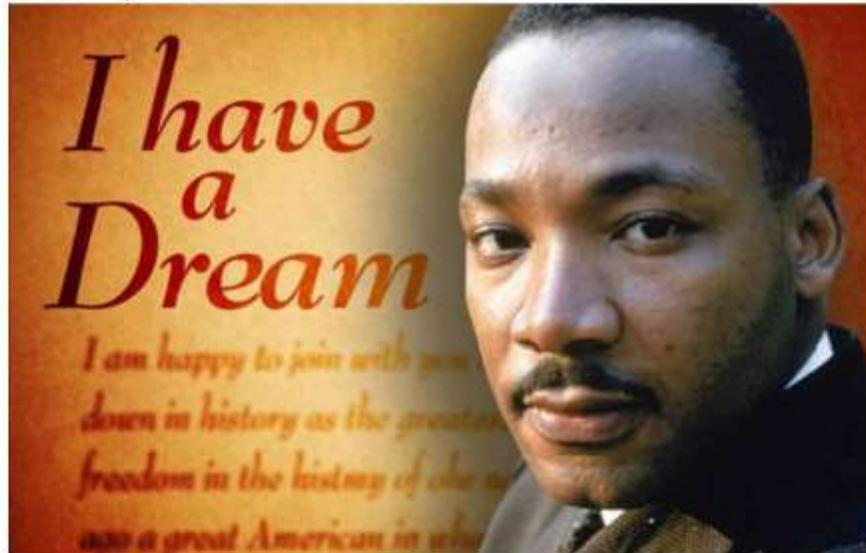
AMERICAN LEGION



WILLIAM E. CARTER POST #16 & AUXILIARY UNIT #16
PRESENTS THE 15TH ANNUAL
REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
BREAKFAST

Monday January 15, 2018 9AM-1PM

Doors open at 9AM Breakfast served at 10AM



Special Guest Speakers & performances

1531 Blue Hill Avenue, Mattapan, MA 02126
For Ticket info: contact American Legion (617)696-0024

DONATION \$20 Adults: \$10 Children 12 & under

PLEASE SHOW YOUR SUPPORT



CHAPTER 224,
EASTHAMPTON, MA

"2018 WINTER BASH"

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2018 5 PM TO 10 PM
DINNER, DANCING, RAFFLES AND 50/50
Dinner Tickets \$20 per Person only 120 will be sold.

"Winter Bash Raffle Prizes"

- 1st Prize – 55 in LED tv –
- 2nd Prize – 10 in Kindle Fire w/case –
- 3rd Prize – \$100 scratch ticket tree –
- 4th Prize - \$100 VISA Gift Card –

Drawing to be held Saturday, January 27, 2018 - 8 P.M.

American Legion Post 224, Easthampton, MA

ONLY 300 RAFFLE TICKETS WILL BE SOLD

Donation \$10-Need not be present to win

Tickets can be purchased at Post 224,

From Any American Legion 224 Rider, or

Call Sylvia at 413-665-1250

"WE ARE ALIVE AND WELL AND GOING STRONG"
COME JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF FUN AND PRIZES

DISTRICT 5 MIDDLESEX COUNTY
FOUR CHAPLAINS' SUNDAY

District Five Middlesex County Four Chaplains' Sunday
February 4, 2018.

To be held at St Raphael's Church 316 High St, Medford.
At 2:00 PM



William E. Carter
American Legion Post #16 Presents
A trip to **FOXWOODS**
Saturday, **February 10th**, 2017



Reserve Your Seats Early

Departure from: William E. Carter Post #16 @ 8:00am *Sharp

Address: 1531 Blue Hill Avenue, Mattapan, MA 02126

Departure from: Foxwoods Casino @ 5:00pm *Sharp

**Donation: \$35 Round Trip: Make Checks Payable To:
William E. Carter Post #16**

Bonus package includes FREE Slot Play and a Food Voucher plus (Foxwood features the "Tanger Shopping Outlets; High Stakes Bingo 10:30am; Craps/Poker tables and much more)

For Reservations & Tickets Contact:

William Netter 857-939-3301

Sonny Dean (857) 234-3781

Bob Greene (617) 501-1575



THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY
7th ANNUAL - "PARTNERSHIP FOR KIDS" - BOWLING TOURNAMENT

UNION STREET LANES

215 UNION ST.

HOLBROOK, MA 02343

MARCH 31, 2018 11:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE
"PARTNERSHIP FOR KIDS"

BOSTON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, BAYSTATE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
UMASS MEMORIAL CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER

LIMITED TO 32 TEAMS

FIRST COME FIRST SERVE ON TEAM SIGN UPS

FIVE PERSON TEAMS

\$20.00 PER PERSON / \$100.00 PER TEAM

FOOD PROVIDED FOR ALL TEAMS DURING TOURNAMENT

\$10.00 FOOD CHARGE FOR NON- BOWLERS

RAFFLES & AWARDS CEREMONY AT END OF TOURNAMENT

SEND PAYMENT & REGISTRATION FORMS TO:

CLIFFORD A. SMITH

32A COTTAGE ST.

MANSFIELD, MA 02048

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

THE DETACHMENT OF MASS S.A.L.

CONFIRMATION OF ENTRY FORMS

WILL BE SENT UPON RECEIPT OF COMPLETED REGISTRATION

MUST BE PAID IN FULL TO SECURE REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR ALL TEAMS MARCH 24, 2018





THE AMERICAN LEGION

**DEPARTMENT OF
MASSACHUSETTS**



~~ANNUAL~~

**POW-MIA
REMEMBRANCE
CEREMONY**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2018
(SECOND SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER)

**ABOARD THE BATTLESHIP
USS MASSACHUSETTS
BATTLESHIP COVE
FALL RIVER, MASS.**

**BOARD THE SHIP
STARTING AT 12:00 NOON
PROGRAM STARTS AT 1:00 P.M.**



Remember the Date:
June 15, 2019

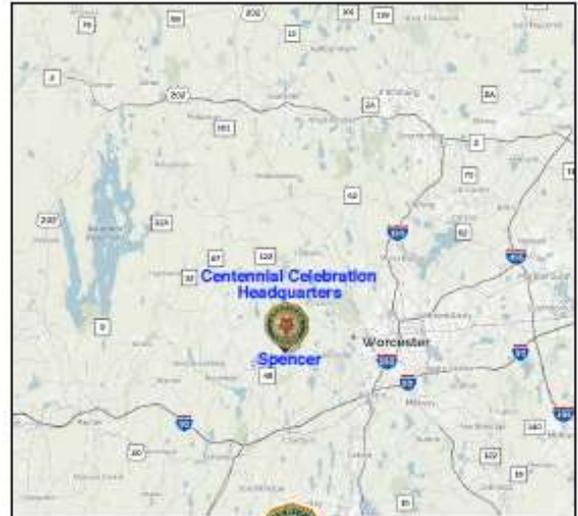


THE AMERICAN LEGION
Centennial celebration



100th
Anniversary Celebration

Hosted by
Gaudette-Kirk Post 138
Spencer, Massachusetts



Anniversary Celebration
June 15, 2019
Spencer, Massachusetts

Grand Parade
Spencer Fairgrounds
Family Fun Day
Static Displays
Live Entertainment
Live Music

Be a part of the celebration! For more info:
George 508-284-0212 Jerry 774-200-3202
Scott 508-885-5618



END!