



VETS' NEWS

Friday, December 17, 2021

Veterans Strengthening America



0

LEGION FAMILY AGAIN TAKING LEAD IN WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA EVENTS

The following are a few examples of how American Legion Family members from across the nation will support Wreaths Across America. Please remember to share how your post and/or Legion Family took part in WAA events in your community on www.legiontown.org.

Massachusetts

In Quincy, members of Robert I. Nickerson American Legion Post 382 have provided fundraising efforts and

will take part in the WAA event at Mount Wollaston Cemetery. More than 7,100 wreaths will be placed on veterans' graves.

In Scituate, American Legion Post 144 is providing 77 wreaths to be placed at the Cudworth Veteran's Cemetery. Post 144 will conduct a ceremony at the cemetery, which follows a Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Lawson Park.

RED CROSS NEEDS BLOOD DONATIONS

The American Red Cross blood supply is at historically low levels as the pandemic continues and the winter storm season approaches. "We're at a point where some patients relying on a transfusion may not receive the blood they need," says Jeff Hall of the American Red Cross of Massachusetts. Those who donate Dec. 17 and later are eligible to get a free long-sleeve T-shirt. Donors of all blood types — especially type O — and platelet donors are urged to make an appointment by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting

RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

Among the drives being held in the area:

Attleboro — Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2 to 7 p.m., American Legion Post 312, 437 Newport Ave. (Route 123). (*Attleboro Sun Chronicle*)

AMERICAN LEGION POST 92 GRAFTON, MASSACHUSETTS

In addition to completing holiday shopping, it's not too late to give back, in the spirit of Christmas. The American Legion Post 92, Delisle Goulet in Grafton is holding its drive to benefit Veterans, Inc., an excellent nonprofit that serves veterans and their families through housing, educational, employment and rehabilitation programs. They've been collecting men's and women's winter boots and accessories, shoes, underwear, personal hygiene and grooming products and bus passes for the homeless veterans residing at its shelter. (*Blackstone Valley Xpress*)

BREAKFAST W/SANTA

Join Acushnet American Legion Post 265 for Breakfast with Santa, Sun., 12/19, 9-11 a.m., 71 Hope St., Acushnet. FREE (*Fairhaven Neighborhood News*)



NEIGHBOR, VETERANS SURPRISE METHUEN MAN WITH NEW PET

METHUEN — Kathy DeMartini told her neighbor Bob Lister (a member of Methuen American Legion Post 122) to be at home this past Sunday at 1 p.m., but she wouldn't tell him why.

When the big moment arrived, DeMartini helped Lister, 88, and a veteran, get a coat on and move out to the front yard, where he was greeted by at least 30 members of the Burlington and Woburn American Legion posts, along with a Methuen fire truck.

"They all came riding up and they all got out and came up and shook his hand and thanked him for his service," DeMartini said.

Lister, who lives alone, was overwhelmed by the show of support, DeMartini said, and could hardly believe it when they told him there was more to come.

"He said, 'I'm ready for anything now,'" DeMartini said.

But in fact he seemed totally unprepared when they gave him a gift: a 10-month-old Chihuahua named Calypso.

"A big name for a little dog," DeMartini said.

Calypso's manageable size was key, because Lister needs a dog that can fit on his lap, and won't pull him off his feet when they go for a walk. But most importantly, the puppy was chosen to replace a dachshund named Dolly who died six months ago, and was Lister's only companion.

"His text to me that morning would rip your heart out," DeMartini said.

Lister and DeMartini live at opposite ends of Ayer Street, where she often saw him out walking Dolly, before she knew who he was.

DeMartini learned about Lister from another neighbor after the pandemic started, when people were spending more time taking walks.

"We had more of a chance to talk than we normally would have," DeMartini said. "She mentioned that he lives up the street and lives alone."

Because DeMartini loves to cook and bake, she thought about taking him something to eat.

"So I did," she said. "One day I made a bunch of food, and screwed up my courage. I didn't know how he would take it, he might be offended."

Instead he said, "God bless you," and they have gotten together once or twice a week since then, in addition to texting each other every day.

But DeMartini also discovered that, when it came to brightening Lister's day, she could always count on help from his fellow veterans in the American Legion.

That happened after she took doughnuts to Lister one day, then photographed him walking back to his house, and posted the image on Facebook.

Friends who saw the photo said it was apparent from Lister's posture that he needed handrails on his front steps, and someone suggested that DeMartini should reach out to Paul Lewis at the American Legion in Burlington.

She did, on the Friday following this past Veterans Day, and by Monday, Chris Talalas, a Legion member from Woburn, had showed up at Lister's house to measure the steps for railings. On Tuesday, they were installed.

"They have group posts, all the Legion leaders, and when something is needed, that's what they do, they put a post out," DeMartini said.

After telling Lewis how grateful she was for the railings, DeMartini said she hated to ask him for another favor, but wondered if he could help her find a new dog for Lister.

It turned out that Lewis's cousin breeds chihuahuas, so Calypso came housebroken and with all his shots, along with a dog bed, some toys and plenty of dog food.

"Oh my God," Lister said, when they handed him the puppy. "He's beautiful. I can't thank you enough."

When DeMartini texted Lister the next day, to ask how he felt at that moment, he replied: "When I realized they were actually giving this wonderful little guy to me, I was so overwhelmed with emotion that I really couldn't think of any words that can come close to describing it."

For her part, DeMartini was precise in expressing her gratitude for the American Legion members who came to Lister's aid.

"What a great group of people," she said. "Amazing guys." (*Eagle Tribune*)

PHOTO ON NEXT PAGE

NEIGHBOR, VETERANS SURPRISE METHUEN MAN WITH NEW PET



Bob Lister of Methuen received an early Christmas present, a chihuahua named Calypso, from fellow veterans at American Legion posts in Burlington and Woburn.



NEW MISSION BLUE POST ELIGIBILITY RULES SET

It's been a year since The American Legion's Mission Blue Post Assistance Program went into effect following the adoption of Resolution No. 36 by the National Executive Committee during the 2020 Fall Meetings. The program provides eligible American Legion posts financially affected by COVID-19 government restrictions with \$1,000 grants. These funds are to pay current or past due rent, mortgage, utilities and insurance premiums.

However, of the more than 12,400 American Legion posts, only 465 have applied for, and received, this grant.

In looking at the eligibility requirements for the Mission Blue Post Assistance grant, it was identified that a possible deterrent for posts to apply is the insurance requirement. Therefore, to ensure posts in need apply for and receive this grant, the following eligibility requirements for the grant application are now in effect.

1. Any post that does not have insurance that names the national organization as an additional insured and/or has not filed a 2021 Consolidated Post Report but meets the other grant qualifications identified in Resolution No. 36, may receive up to \$1,000.

2. Any post that has met the insurance requirement and has a 2021 Consolidated Post Report on file and meets the other grant qualifications identified in Resolution No. 36, may receive up to \$2,000. Posts that previously applied for and received a \$1,000 grant, can reapply to receive another \$1,000.

[Download the Mission Blue Post Assistance Program application.](#) Eligible posts have until July 1, 2022, to apply.

Resolution No. 36 eligibility criteria for posts

1. A Consolidated Post Report on file at National Headquarters.

2. Filed an IRS 990 within the prescribed due date.

3. Filed all other required forms and reports as prescribed by the department.

4. Actively participated in one or more American Legion programs within the last 18 months.

5. A financial need.

6. A certificate of insurance for all liability coverage naming The American Legion doing business as (dba) The American Legion National Headquarters and the post's department as an additional insured. (Submit declaration page showing coverage.)

7. Documentation indicating that the post is properly incorporated.

Q: Where should applications be submitted?

A: All applications will first need to go through the respective department prior to being submitted to National Headquarters. Department commanders and/or adjutants must certify the applicant meets the criteria.

Q: What is required by recipient posts in terms of the grant report?

A: All recipient posts are required to submit a grant report within six months of the grant/check issue date. There is a standardized grant report that is sent out with every inclusion letter to the department for the recipient posts. A fillable PDF version is also available via email request to ia@legion.org. When completing the Mission Blue grant report, a recipient post needs to only report how the grant, which is capped at \$1,000, was utilized. For example, \$250 used for insurance and \$750 used for utilities. Reported figures should not exceed the amount that was awarded.



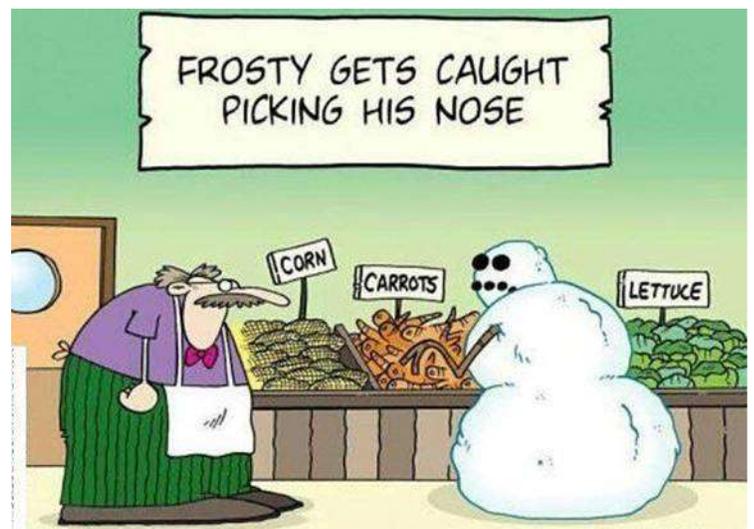
A BIT OF HUMOR



So, I can't bring a stick inside



But you're allowed a whole tree?



POST EVENTS

AND OTHER VETERANS ACTIVITIES



Sons of The American Legion National Vice Commander Richard "Dickie" Huntley Visitation Dinner



Saturday, January 8, 2022

2PM – 6PM at Cherry Valley Post 443

We will be holding a fundraiser for the
Detachment Commander's Charitable Project
The American Legion Veterans & Children's Foundation

Italian Buffet - Mystery Merch Raffle & More

Tickets \$15.00 contact Mark McCue markbmccue@gmail.com



American Legion Post 338



The American Legion Family

46 Powder Mill Road, Southwick, MA

Spaghetti Dinner

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

5 pm to 7pm

Veterans \$5.00 & Guests \$7.00

Proceeds to benefit the Southwick Fireman's Association



Cash bar available



American Legion Riders Chapter 101

Presents

2nd Annual Left-Right-Center

Charity dice games



\$25.00 entry fee will get your first two games

we can have several games at different dollar amounts as needed.

We will have a cash bar and food and music

Location. George A Campbell post Woburn, Ma. 01801

Save the date. Saturday, January 29th 2022

12-4pm

we will have a 50/50 and raffle items



Contact Bruce at 978 375 4325 Or email bruce7966@hotmail.com



Join us on Sunday, February 13,
2022

Dudley Gendron Post 414
Super Bowl Potluck Gathering
5:30 p.m.-Closing

This is Free and Open to the Public; all you need to do is Dress in
your football gear and bring a dish for the Gathering to Share

**DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS
AMERICAN LEGION CONVENTIONS**

6/24/2022 6/26/2022 Best Western Royal
Plaza
181 Boston Post Rd West, Marlborough

6/7/2024 6/9/2024 Best Western Royal
Plaza
181 Boston Post Rd West, Marlborough

6/9/2023 6/11/2023 Best Western Royal
Plaza
181 Boston Post Rd West, Marlborough

6/6/2025 6/8/2025 Best Western Royal
Plaza
181 Boston Post Rd West, Marlborough

American Legion National Convention Sites and Dates

<u>Year</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>
2022	Aug 26 – Sept 1	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
2023	Aug 25 – 31	Charlotte, North Carolina
2024	Aug 23 – 29	New Orleans, Louisiana
2025	Aug 22 – 28	Tampa, Florida
2026	Aug 28 – Sept 3	Louisville, Kentucky

(Submitted to VETS' NEWS by Milton Lashus)

THE END!