



*Maine VFW Service Office
No One Does More for Veterans*

*"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth."
Muhammad Ali*

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*Department of Maine
VFW Service Officers*

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Service Officers JoAnn Bolduc (R) and Cornelius "James" Ware (L) flank Secretary of the VA Robert McDonald.

Happy Birthday Togus!!

September 17, 2016 saw Togus VA celebrate a milestone as we celebrated its 150th birthday. Our lovely state has the proud distinction of being the home of the oldest VA in the United States. Secretary of the VA Robert McDonald made a very special visit to meet with the Togus community. From honoring our Civil War Veteran, Pvt. Jewett

Williams, in his final homecoming to the closing ceremonies November 10 our Veterans saw a strong tie to our heritage and a pride in the unique construction in our VA campus. It is with great hope that we move forward in our VA future anticipating positive progress in service to our Maine Veteran community.



James Ware(887) prepares the Outreach table for the 150th Birthday Celebration Sept.17





Post Service Officers

- 2599 Benjamin T. Everett
- 618 Donald A. Pelkey
- 9389 Andre L. Dumas
- 9609 Lester J. Dubois
- 9699 Bruce R. Junkins
- 1605 James F. McIntyre
- 2299 James C. Brown
- 4154 Eric E. Buckingham
- 7529 John H. Schmidt
- 558 Edward K. Browne
- 9779 Russell W. Leighton
- 11553 Charles A. Warden
- 109 Daniel P. Sullivan
- 1761 Lawrence K. Holland
- 3381 Corey E. Carr
- 4527 Shawn A. Jernigan
- 4633 Raymond R. Lupo
- 4298 George F. French
- 5723 James H. Schoenmann
- 6924 Stephen G. Dostie
- 7865 Craig L. Jackson
- 7866 Elwin A. Matthews
- 10881 Clyde P. Penney
- 11191 George W. Mathis
- 3095 Robert T. Wilshire
- 3108 James A. Roberts
- 4169 Larry M. Hopkins
- 6131 Jay E. Mason
- 9437 Eugene R. Kirkpatrick
- 2197 Stephen A. Wilkins
- 4525 John S. Blodgett
- 7738 Robert E. Joyce
- 9 Richard E. O'Ben
- 887 Cornelius J. Ware
- 285 Jeremy J. Lockhart
- 8835 JoAnn Bolduc
- 9526 Billy Joe Cummins
- 1603 Jennifer L. Lane
- 1641 David D. Williams
- 3335 George B. Wyman
- 9150 Bertrand A. Dutil
- 9787 David C. Bradbury
- 11032 Russell L. Strout
- 832 Edward H. Cook
- 6783 Clifford R. Purinton
- 6859 Bryan E. Noyes
- 9328 Randall C. Withee
- 10529 John S. Ames
- 10643 Dennis Marshall



Auxiliary Members Brenda Blair and Pam Jerome chat with a Veteran at the 150th Celebration



Patriot Guard Riders bring the remains of Civil War Veteran Pvt. Jewett Williams back to his transport vehicle after a ceremony Aug 23, 2016 outside Togus. (Micky Bedell/BDN)



L-R Howard Gooldrup (Cmdr 1603) Ethan Roy, Alex Cote and Ryan Handlon (Boy Scout troop 007), Jennifer Lane (1603) Steven J. SanPedro (Maine State Commander and post 6859) and Keith Davis (1603) prepare to assist the veterans at the Homeless Standdown.



Homeless Veterans Coordinator James E.N. Bachelder (9935) chats with State Commander Steven J. SanPedro (6859) at The Homeless Veterans StandDown



A Veteran examines the Vietnam War display at Togus



The eagle sculpture created by Windsor artist George Gunning for the 150th.

News and Notes:

-Many of you have expressed interest in the annual post service officer training. We are working diligently on updating the material and streamlining the format. Standby for information on the class dates for the new year.

-The Service Office at Togus now has a prominent billboard in the main hall. If you or your organization has an event of interest to Veterans, please send a flyer to the service office and we will be happy to post it.

KNOW YOUR SO

James Edwin Noel Bachelder:



Jim joined the Navy in January 1969. After boot camp at Great Lakes, Illinois he went to Basic Propulsion and Engineering school also at Great Lakes. He then went to Mare Island in Vallejo, California for River Boat Training. He served in Vietnam in River Divisions 512 and 554 before service as the MAA of the chow hall in Dong Tam.

After returning from Vietnam, Jim served on the oceangoing tug boat USS Luiseno (ATF 156) for the next 2 years. The ship towed target for the fleet in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in January and February each year. The ship also moved ships and other floating equipment along the east coast as well as in the Caribbean Sea. As sailors, the ship hit several posts along the coast. The best cruise was two weeks in Bermuda.

After leaving the Navy, Jim attended Northeast Institute of Technology for air conditioning and refrigeration, worked as a tractor mechanic for FINAST in Somerville MA, received his tractor/trailer license and drove for several years. Jim then worked for Ace Service Inc., as an a/c mechanic and commercial food handling equipment technician.

Jim enrolled in Northeastern University for a Bachelor of Science/Computer Science degree. He works in several companies as computer room operator and manager. He designed and overseen the building of computer rooms and created the international private computer network.

After receiving his 100% service connected disability Jim joined VFW Post 9935 in 1997 in Sanford where he started as the Post Service Officer and Assistant Adjutant.

In 2007 Jim was elected the State Commander of the Maine VFW. He has served 10 years as the Maine VFW Homeless Veterans Committee Chairman. When the state of Maine started looking for land for a cemetery in southern Maine, Jim brought all the Sanford Veterans Service Organizations together. In short time, they found some land in Springvale Maine. The Town of Sanford donated more land to complete the required acreage. Since the cemetery opened, Jim has served as the Maine VFW Southern Maine Cemetery Chairman.

During his time at the Sanford Post 9935 he has earned the Post Quartermaster 101+% membership pin 6 times, Post All-State Quartermaster Award 4 times and the All-American Team Post Quartermaster Award once. He is still the Post Service Officer and has been almost every year since 1997.

Service Officer Tips:

-Please don't wait to send in signed VA forms, especially if it is reaching the end of the month. It could cost the Veteran benefits.

-Refrain from emailing sensitive information (DD214s, SSNs etc.). The information is not able to be encrypted and is not a secure method of communication. FAXing or postal mail is the best choice.

A Holiday Message from Your Veteran's Service Office:

If you listen to the news or pay attention to social media, our nation seems to be at war with itself. Any slight, real or imagined seems to be enhanced and expanded until the lines of what is important blur and disappear. As we enter 2017, it is our heartfelt wish that our nation remembers that we are still the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave. That we are still the Land of Opportunity and once we decide to make America our home that we are no longer segregated by any race, creed, color, religion, sexual orientation or any other possible adjective that could separate us but that we are simply Americans. With that reminder of the blessings we have, your service officers want to wish you and yours the Happiest of Holidays and a Bright and Blessed New Year.

*Cornelius James Ware Jr.
JoAnn Bolduc*

Spotlight On: The Iraq Campaign Medal



This service medal was implemented April 7, 2005 as a specific recognition for those GIs serving in the Iraqi theater of operations. To be eligible, one must have served in direct support of Operation Iraqi Freedom on or after March 19, 2003. The area includes Iraq, 12 miles offshore and the air space above both. Troops must have served in the area 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days. Time limits are waived if a GI engaged in combat or was wounded and evacuated. For air crews, each day of operations counts as one day of eligibility. The medal may be awarded posthumously.

The campaign medal replaces the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (GWOTEM), which expired February 28, 2005, for the Iraq War. GIs who served in Iraq before the GWOTEM expired can choose to wear either the GWOTEM or the Iraq Campaign Medal.

