

CHAPTER XVIII

VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS

“With malice towards none; with charity for all.”

- ABRAHAM LINCOLN

JOHN HUMISTON AMERICAN LEGION POST #11

John Humiston American Legion Post #11 has consistently given back to the community, and the years from 1970 are no exception. Enjoying a membership of over 800 at its home on Webster Street, it has helped restore the war monument in front of the library, sponsored the Rod and Gun Fishing Derby, built the ball field on Webster Street, helped provide lighting at Humiston Field, supplied uniforms for the Conant High School Band, supplied basketball uniforms, and supported just about every community organization that asked for help. Its major fund-raiser is the well-known Sunday Bingo game that attracts over 100 people a week. The annual John & Margaret Walsh Memorial Scholarship and the newly formed H. Thomas O’Neil Memorial Scholarship are awarded each year to a graduating senior from Jaffrey or Rindge.



John Humiston American Legion Post

The Legion donates its hall and facilities to many organizations while members enjoy the canteen on the lower level. One of the most important activities of the Legion is co-sponsoring, with VFW Post #5613, the annual Memorial Day and Veterans' Day observances. The club has also strongly supported the creation of the Korea - Vietnam Memorial Park and Humiston Field Memorial Park. It also supplies grave markers and, along with the VFW, participates in military funerals. Jaffrey is fortunate to have such an organization. Since 1970 the following men have served as Commander:

Raymond Wallace	1970-1971
James Baird	1971-1973
Vernon Taylor	1973-1974
Norman Bosse	1974-1976
Nelson Letourneau	1977-1978
Arthur Lambert	1978-1984
Philip St. Pierre	1984-1986
Samuel Zachos	1986-1988
Elliott Morrison	1988-1989
Theodore Renauld	1989-1990
Benoit Leclair	1999-1991
Samuel Zachos	1991-1992
Sylvestor (Sully) DeRuosi	1991-1994
Richard D. Davis Jr.	1994-1996
Charles S. Smith	1996-

**JOHN HUMISTON UNIT #11
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**

YEAR FOUNDED: 1921; Thelma Brown was Unit President

PURPOSE OF ORGANIZATION: To support the post in all projects for community service. The unit has many committees that contribute to public service. These committees are: Americanism, Children and Youth, National Security, Constitution and By-Laws, Community Service, Education, Girls State, Foreign Relations, Juniors, Legislation, Rehabilitation, Music, Membership, and Past Presidents' Parley.

MAJOR PROJECTS since 1968: contributing to the Jaffrey Recreation Department for Halloween and Christmas parties, helping with the Foster Children Program, giving Thanksgiving baskets to needy veterans' families, remembering veterans' families at Christmas, serving refreshments at the Sunday bingo games, visiting the cemeteries and remembering deceased members, renovating the Gold Star Mothers' Monument on the common. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at the Post Home at 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT OFFICERS:

President, Patricia Smith; 1st vice president, Marlene Davis; 2nd vice president, Sharon Cook; secretary, Janice Morrison; treasurer, Ellen Caron; historian, Joan DeGrandpre; chaplain, Jessica Scribner; sergeant at arms, Helen Phelps.

PAST PRESIDENTS

Lorraine Scribner	1967-1968
Barbara LaFreniere	1969
Bernice Murray	1970
Lorraine Scribner	1971-1972
Anna Whipple	1973
Rose Taylor	1974-1975
Agnes Field	1976-1977
Rose Taylor	1978
Betty Gagnon	1979-1980
Rose Taylor	1981-1982
Beverly Billings	1983
Diane Filipek	1984
Shirley Mahoney	1985-1988
Elizabeth Despres	1989-1990
Janice Morrison	1991-1992
Ellen Harlow	1993
Marlene Davis	1994
Elizabeth Despres	1995
Patricia Smith	1996 -

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

The National Organization of the Sons of the American Legion was authorized in 1932 and rededicated in 1972. The John Humiston Squadron 11 was chartered December 21, 1978, with 41 initial members. The purpose of the Sons is to support the goals of the American Legion as a civic and community leader.

John Humiston Squad 11 presently has 168 members. The Sons offer many community services including the H. Thomas O'Neil Scholarship at Conant High School, the annual Senior Citizens' Thanksgiving dinner, and the local children's Christmas party. The squadron also supports the American Legion Emergency Relief Fund and the Child Welfare Foundation.

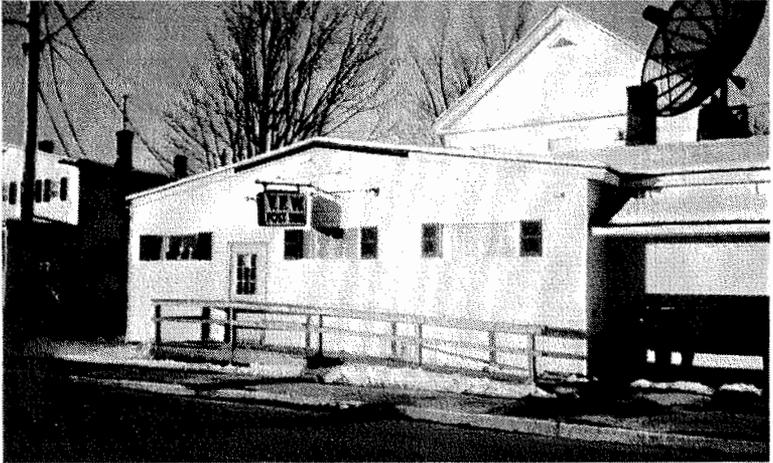
The 1998-99 officers are: commander, Matthew Despres; 1st vice commander, Phillip Cook; 2nd vice commander, William Vorce; adjutant, John Ojala.

JAFFREY MEMORIAL POST #5613 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

It is ironic that when Volume III of the Jaffrey history was published in 1970, J. Peter Bourque was post commander of VFW Post #5613. At this writing in 1996, he is again serving in that post. This exemplifies one of the problems facing many veterans' groups. Although they often have large memberships, there are few people to oversee day-to-day operations. In spite of limited workers at times, the post has made many contributions to community, school, and church functions over the years.

First and foremost is the ambulance service for both Jaffrey and Rindge residents to use free of charge. Since its inception in 1948, many members of the post and nonmembers have worked thousands of hours and have unselfishly donated their time to make this venture one of which every resident can be very proud. With the passing of friend and motivator, Orin Letourneau, the Jaffrey VFW Post 5613 ambulance service lost a pillar of strength. Filling his shoes has been a difficult task, but Christopher Bergeron has stepped forward as chief and has performed admirably. Christopher is joined by two assistant chiefs, Scott Shelley and David Chamberlain. Sandra Stewart is the treasurer. Thanks to the mem-

bers' dedication and love of this work, the ambulance service continues to provide a valuable contribution to the lives of Jaffrey and Rindge citizens.



Jaffrey Memorial Post VFW

Howard Park, located off route 202 North on Cheshire Pond, is a wayside park that was created in 1962 by Post 5613 and is still maintained by the post. Much of the work to make this park as attractive as it is has been done by post members, namely Romolo Ascani, Roland Pillsbury, and J. Peter Bourque. The next time you are passing this park, take time to observe how many townspeople and visitors stop there to use the facilities and enjoy the pond and well-kept surroundings.

Babe Ruth baseball has always been high on this post's list of community activities. Sponsoring youth baseball has been an ongoing project since 1962. Many trophies are brought back to the post after the season is over. Cookouts are held and jackets are presented to the coaches and departing players at this time. Many coaches and assistant coaches have sat in the dugout at Humiston Field since 1970. Richard Lambert, William Gibbons, and Kim Hall are just a few.

Quite often the post is asked to donate money, time, or both to worthwhile projects within the town of Jaffrey. Post 5613 purchased a new flagpole for the Veterans' Memorial at Humiston Field. They

gave time and contributions to the Korea-Vietnam Memorial Park on the river. The post purchased the granite curbing around the cul-de-sac at the flagpole at the Phillips-Heil Cemetery on Fitzwilliam Road. These are just a few of the projects the VFW has been associated with in the past 26 years.

In 1996 the VFW celebrated Post 5613's 50th anniversary. Many members attended the gala function at Hidden Hills in Rindge. Many folks saw one another for the first time in years, and good stories were passed back and forth.

Members of Post 5613 are willing to fulfill the organization's motto, "Honor the dead by helping the living." In time of need they will always be there.

POST OFFICERS in 1996-97: commander, J. Peter Bourque; senior vice commander, Richard Davis Jr.; junior vice commander, Nelson Letourneau; quartermaster, Kenneth Elliott; judge advocate, David Vinal; surgeon, Alan Cote; adjutant/chaplain, Paul McPhie.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS MEMORIAL
AUXILIARY #5613

YEAR FOUNDED: May 18, 1946

OFFICERS: president, Janet Lacroix; senior vice president, Marion Davis; junior vice president, Cheryl Caron; secretary/treasurer, Lorraine Marro

PURPOSE OF ORGANIZATION: To promote and aid the Jafrey VFW.