

Rhode Island National Guard Retirement Updater



A Quarterly publication of the
Rhode Island National Guard Retirees Association

Builders of the only memorial to the National Guard in R.I.



Vol. XXXI, No. 3, *September 2025* issue

On the Web. Ringretirees.org



The RING Memorial is completed!

See the feature in the centerfold, pages 4-5

Chief George Farrell Founder of Rhode Island Fire Chiefs Honor Flight Hub addresses our June Meeting



At our quarterly meeting on the 14th of June, we had the privilege to have retired Providence Fire Chief George Farrell to speak about the Rhode Island Fire Chiefs Honor Flight Hub. The Chief told us that the Honor Flights started with the WWII memorial. The Honor Flight network grew to 140 hubs in 40 states. Chief Farrell founded the RI Fire Chiefs Honor Flight and established the RI hub and it was recognized in August of 2012 by the National Network. Over 1000 veterans have taken the Honor Flights, the 33rd Honor Flight is scheduled for Saturday, September 27, 2005. Anyone interested for themselves or for relatives and friends can log on to HonorFlight.com for applications and information. Some of the services provided to our veterans include free meals, all transportation, wheel chairs and a fully staffed medical team. All fire personnel are trained EMTs with equipment and a Physicians Assistant on board. If a veteran needs a guardian from home to attend to them a \$500 fee is required.

A typical day for an honor flight is about 15 to 17 hours to visit the memorials and ceremonies with bagpipes and fife and drum etc. Among the sites visited are the WWII, Korea and Vietnam memorials. Many members of congress and senate attend and speak at the various ceremonies. Police escorts clear the way for the busses. All travelers must have a Real ID license a military ID (retired), a current VA health card, or a passport. All National Guard veterans who are not war veterans are welcome to participate. All participants will receive a shirt, a baseball cap, and a book of memorials.

See Chief Farrell on page 6

Volume XXXI No 3 September 2025

The RING Retirement Updater is published quarterly to precede the quarterly meetings of the RING Retirees Association

President.....Stephen Souza
 Vice President.....Patricia Ryan
 Secretary.....Carole Angolano
 Treasurer.....Herve Pelland
 Emergency Support Fund.....Patty Ryan
 Newsletter Editor.....Steve Beauregard
 Membership.....Carole Angolano
 Website.....Lori Casucci
 By-Laws and Legal.....Bill O'Mara
 RI Legislation.....John Gallo
 Veterans Affairs.....Dan Evangelista
 Memorial Maintenance...Bob Urquhart



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

“In dire need”

As you all probably know, our organization is staffed by individuals who have served honorably in the R.I. National Guard, and we do it on a voluntary basis.

We have a very distinctive cross section of people who served in various positions in both the Army and Air Guard.

As your President, I find our staff working very well together and would not trade a single person!

From time to time, we find ourselves in need of a person to fill a void, keeping our association running for the benefits of our great organization, the Rhode Island National Guard.

It's part of our duty to keep our retirees, as well as our active troops well informed of information, not normally provided through the regular chain of command.

With that said, the time is now upon us, where we are “In dire need” of a secretary. Currently we have Carole Angelano, who works our membership, which takes a decent amount of time and is holding down the secretary's position, as well. Not fair? We need your help...

Continued on page 6

CONTACTS for RINGRA Information and Services:

Steve Souza.....President.....508-642-6660
 Steve Beauregard.....Newsletter Editor401-578-3843
 Carole Angolano.....Member Data and ID Cards.....401-603-6011
 Lori Casucci.....Website.....401-262-1490
 William O'MaraBy-Laws and Legal.....401-438-7867
 John P. Gallo.....Rhode Island Legislation.....401-728-3845

IN MEMORIAM



Visit Our Website for Legislation Updates
 at ringretirees.org

The brick project is complete and paid for – thanks to you, our donors!

This donor list comprises our members who made it happen! As of this newsletter printing, we have almost reached our goal of \$13,600; a herculean task for sure! Any remaining donations will be put into our maintenance fund. Just a note: over half of the donations came from the Executive Committee. On behalf of our Board, I thank all of you for making this brick rebuilding job happen.

The following two pages show the progress and final results of the work done by Domingo Construction. These men were meticulous in their work. Take a ride and see for yourself!

Bob Urquhart

Carole Angolano	Bill Fielder	Ray Laprad	Ed Petrocelli
Bob Antonelli	Jim Fisher	Ray Letourneau	Nelson Reynolds
Charles Brule	Thomas Frazer	Dennis Lillibridge	Patty Ryan
Romeo Blouin	John Flanagan	Joe Lopes	Dick Santoro
Richard Bradley	Arthur Frechette	John MacLennan	Barbara Senerchia
Lori Casucci	Joe Goddard	Richard Marois	Bob Shunski
Dennis Charpentier	Wendell Graham	Richard Masterson	Joe Sindoni
Ernst Cotnoir	Charles Gresko	Mike Moluex	Steve Souza
David Culton	Dennis Grilli	Sal Mosca	Damien St. Louis
Tom D'Abrosca	Bruce Hanke	Larry Moulton	Luigi Stanziale
Jim D'Agostino	Bob Kells	Vincent Neri	Joan Tinkham
Bob Dixon	Mark Kirkwood	Bill O'Mara	Bob Urquhart
Tom Duffney	Bob Krekorian	Steve Orlomoski	Stan Wilbur
Jim Dunn	Ed Lacolle	Pete Papa	Art Zoglio
Edward Ernst	Paul Lambert	Herve Pelland	Chet Zuromski
Fred Evon	Gerald Lambert	Vin Petrarca	



**RHODE ISLAND OFFICE OF
VETERANS
SERVICES**

SERVING
RI Veterans & Their Families

- Active Military Support
- Transition Assistance
- Veteran Benefit Coordination
- One-stop-shop Veteran Resource Center
- Compassionate Care at the RI Veterans Home
- Honoring Service with Dignified Burials at RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery

560 Jefferson Blvd • Warwick, RI 02886 401-921- 2119 • vets.ri.gov



How we refurbished our Memorial – the pictures tell the story.

First, all three granite walls, the statue base, six benches, and the large brick surface were power washed by our own Dave Leduc. He brought his own equipment; it took two days, in the heat.

Next, four men from Domingo Construction removed 2470 bricks, one section at a time, resurfaced the base with processed gravel and stone dust (using a laser for proper drainage) and replaced the bricks exactly like the original layout. All done in 4 days, working in 90+ degree heat! The bricks were then sealed with polymeric sand. BTW, the 4x8 bricks weigh 7 lbs. and the 8x8 are 14 lbs!

The crew arrived at 0700 daily (from Cumberland) to beat the heat; most days they worked 10 hours. 112 feet of cobblestone edging, a new feature designed and donated by Domingo Landscaping, was set in concrete. When the job was completed, the crew decided to edge around the bushes and added mulch to make the project look even better. The project was challenging; the crew's dedication to the details of this job was impressive, especially in the July heat!



Local author to speak at our September meeting

Patty Ryan invited Kirsten Holmstedt to speak at our September Quarterly Meeting. Kirsten Holmstedt grew up in Mystic, CT. She earned her Bachelors degree in journalism from Drake University in Des Moines IA and a Master of Fine Arts degree in creative non fiction writing from the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. She has written for newspapers, worked in public relations and taught writing at multiple colleges and universities. Kirsten wrote three books about women in the military: "Band of Sisters", "American Women at War in Iraq", "The Girls Come Marching Home" and "Soul Survivors". She is currently working on her fourth book, "On Her Shoulders", about women in leadership positions in the military. Kirsten resides in Warwick, RI.



Kirsten Holmstedt reads from "The Girls Go Marching Home".

Chief Farrell, From page 1

Chief Farrell also had reminiscences of getting the Hub up and running. He explained how negotiating with the airlines, gaining support from the Rhode Island Airport authority and permission from the TSA. He then told stories about local permitting obstacles he overcame to accomplish the Honor Flight mission. When the parks department denied permission to erect a platform for photographs He got in touch with the DC Fire Chief and he detailed two bucket trucks to hoist the photographers for the aerial shots. Throughout his speech the Chief demonstrated his out of the box methods to remove snags from permitting the events and the ability to leads and work with others to get things done.

Chief Farrell also had reminiscences of getting the Hub up and running. He explained how negotiating with the airlines, gaining support from the Rhode Island Airport authority and permission from the TSA. He then told stories about local permitting obstacles he overcame to accomplish the Honor Flight mission. When the parks department denied permission to erect a platform for photographs He got in touch with the DC Fire Chief and he detailed two bucket trucks to hoist the photographers for the aerial shots. Throughout his speech the Chief demonstrated his out of the box methods to remove snags from permitting the events and the ability to leads and work with others to get things done.

f you are and honorably discharged veteran and you are interested in going on your Honor Flight please visit our website at www.rihonorflight.com. Download and print a veteran's application and then submit it to the RI Fire Chiefs Honor Flight Hub by U.S. Mail to the P.O. Box address on the last page of the application.

Chief George S. Farrell (retired), Founder - Chairman

Rhode Island Fire Chiefs Honor Flight Hub

Mailing - P.O. Box 28132, Providence, Rhode Island 02908

Email – rifirechiefshonorflight@gmail.com

Web site – www.rihonorflight.com

Phone - 401-741-7999

The Rhode Island Fire Chiefs Honor Flight Hub is an Official Hub of the Honor Flight Network

President's Corner from page 2

So, we are, "In Dire Need" of finding a person who would be willing to take on this position, as secretary, keeping notes at our executive committee meetings (monthly) as well as our quarterly meetings, which is four times a year. Please give it a thought and contact one of our staff as we would gladly accept your services and explain the job! Have some fun, join your comrades in arms! You can then state, you are "still serving", like many of us. Thank You.

RING RETIREES ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

The purpose and objective of the RING Retirees Association is to provide benefit information to military retirees, to maintain the camaraderie of the military, and to offer services to fellow members as the need arises.

☐ **NEW MEMBER** (dues free your first year if you sign up for a total of 3 years for \$10)

☐ **RENEWAL** ☐ \$5 - 1 yr. ☐ \$10—2 yrs. ☐ \$15—3 yrs. ☐ \$20—4 yrs. ☐ \$25—5 yrs.

Name _____ Rank (optional) _____

Address _____ D.O.B. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip + Four _____

E-mail address: _____ Telephone _____

No. of Years in the RI National Guard _____ No. of years in other branch (Army, USAF, etc.) _____

Total Years Service _____ Retirement Date _____

Unit Assigned to at Retirement _____

Second Address for December & March issues ☐ OR June & September issues ☐ (Check One):

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip + Four _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE (Check One)

☐ **Active Member**

Any individual who has served at least six (6) years in the Rhode island national Guard and has completed twenty (20) years or more total military service and retired with an honorable discharge is eligible for membership with voting rights. The privilege of voting is extended to members who are currently paid annual members or honorary life members.

☐ **Associate Member**

Anyone who is former military with an honorable discharge, or a current member of the military, or the spouse of a former or current member is eligible to become an associate member. The privilege of voting is not extended to these individuals. They may participate on committees and activities of the organization, provided their dues are paid through the current membership year (1 October through 30 September).

Exception: Associate military retired members who provided exceptional support to the organization for three or more years may be granted full membership with voting rights by the members during a quarterly meeting.

Please make checks payable to:

RING Retirees Association

Mail to:

RING Retirees Association/Membership

c/o CW5 (Ret.) Carole Angolano

46 Ballou St

Cumberland, RI 02864-2031

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Amount Received \$ _____ Date ____/____/____

Check Number _____ Check Date ____/____/____

Member ID Number _____

Received By _____

Database Processed _____ Card Sent _____

R.I.N.G. Retirees Association

705 New London Avenue
Cranston, RI 02920-3003

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PROVIDENCE, RI
PERMIT No.479

MEETING CALENDAR

Meetings are at the Schofield Armory, 705 New
London Avenue, Cranston, RI

Quarterly Meetings SAT, 0900 hours

13 September 2025

13 December 2025

Executive Board Meeting WED, 1800 hours

8 October 2025

12 November 2025

10 December 2025

THIS COULD BE YOUR LAST ISSUE!

If the last two numbers on your mailing label are 25 (or lower), then this WILL be your last issue. It means your membership has expired. Renew with the form on page 7 and mail it with your check by November 2025.

In the example below, the first set of numbers (937) is the membership number; the letter (P) is the type of membership (P = Active and A = Associate); and the last two numbers (25) indicate the year your dues are up for renewal.

If you have not joined or you are due for renewal, please fill in the form on page 7 and mail it with your check. Your membership card will be mailed to you. If you have already joined, thanks for your support and pass the application form on to someone else who has not yet joined. **If you move, PLEASE LET US KNOW.** Because this newsletter is mailed Fourth Class, the Post Office will not forward it to your new address.

(937 P25)

CPT (RET) JAMES T. KIRK

1 SPOCK DRIVE

ENTERPRISE, RI 12345-6789