



**The American Legion  
Field-Allen Post 148  
PO Box 1776  
Windham, Maine 04062**



***Veterans Serving Veterans***  
**Post Excellence Award 2014-23**

*Serving Veterans for 86 years 1938-2024*

To: Windham town Manager/Council

The following is a summary of American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 programs/projects in support of the Town of Windham, its Veterans, youth and the community for the 2024 cycle.

Coordinates the Town of Windham Memorial Day events including the Parade, Ceremony at the High School and provide an open house picnic at the Windham veterans Center for the community.

Coordinate the placement of approx. 1000 flags on the graves of our fallen Veterans in 22 cemeteries in Windham.

Coordinate with the Towns' Public works to place approx. 80 flags on utility poles around the Town on Highways and byways.

Conduct a fundraising program in support of the Everlasting Gratitude wreath Program to place approx. 1000 wreaths on the graves of our fallen Veterans each December. This year's fundraising totaled over \$8000. For the purchase of the wreaths and bows.

Provided two electric wheelchairs to veteran/ veteran family in need of that support.

Assisted in the purchase of a quality used vehicle for a Veteran family in need of transportation to make medical appointments,

Conducted ten RED CROSS Blood drives in support of the Legion National Security pillar collecting approx. 300 units of blood for the cause. Scheduled for Monthly drives in 2025.

Conducted several bean suppers, a St Patrick's Day dinner and a spaghetti dinner open to the public in support of the Post 148 Youth and Scholarship and other programs

Conducted a Fall Day Ceremony with support from Boy scout troop 805 to retire several thousand flags collected from the cemeteries in Windham and from the public.

Provide a collection receptacle for at the Windham veterans Center for flags needing to be retired.

Collaborate with other non-profits in support of Veterans and community issues including: Lion's Club, Chamber of Commerce, Operation Ray of Light, Sebago Lake Anglers Assoc,

Provide monthly support on 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays of each month for a Veterans Service Officer who holds Office Hours for the local veterans in need of VA support.

Host a Weekly Veterans Coffee social supporting approx. three dozen veterans each week. Coffee has been active since March 2016.

Collaborate with Sebago Lake Anglers Association to host a free Veterans Fishing day on Sebago Lake each May.

Host a Flour Chaplains Interfaith Ceremony each Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>

Coordinate and host a Veterans Resource Fair with approx. two dozen VA and other non-profit Vet support vendors each March.

Provide support to the Legion Family annual Naturalization Ceremony held each Friday before Memorial Day.

Provide regular Honor Guard and Rifle Squad Support to veterans families who have lost their Veteran.

Provide two Scholarships in memory of Past Post Commander Don Rogers to Windham High School Graduates.

Provide funding scholarships for Local High School Juniors to attend the “Dirigo State” mock government program each second week of June at Colby College.

#### Issues:

Flags Around Town Program, coordinated since 2005 in Windham, Previous collaboration with Town Public works allowed flags to be put up with a rented bucket truck, providing a safe environment for the instillation of the flags. Previously flags were installed by Vets using ladders in high traffic areas. Flags were put up in May of 2024 without issue. With loss of Bucket truck rental, flags were not taken down after Labor Day, but remained up until mid-December with resulting loss or casualties to many of the flags. This is both a financial issue due to loss of the flags but also a PR issue with destroyed flags not being attended to.

Flag Holders on Vet Graves: For years the Post has coordinated the purchase of these markers from local sources (Foundry) and kept up with inventory needs, Last year the decision was made that the Foundry price was too much and that alternate commercial sources would be explored. Town Public works acquired 24 alloy markers and an equal number of plastic markers that have been deployed. Post is currently out of markers with some replacement and new issues needed.

Wreath Program: Town and Post collaborated to place approx. 1000 shepherds crocks approx. 30 in. high on all Vet graves to hold the wreaths from the program, In Dec this year it was noted that several of these crocks are now missing. Will at some point need to replace lost one if we are to continue this part of the program

David Tanguay, Adjutant