

YEARBOOK HISTORY
OF
HENRY J. SWEENEY
POST #2

THE AMERICAN LEGION
251 MAPLE STREET
MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE
FOR
2022-2023

Complied by:

Wayne Mitchell
Post Historian

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FORWARD

ON MAY 25, 1919 A GROUP OF EX-SERVICEMEN OF ALL BRANCHES OF THE ARMED FORCES MET AT THE PLEASANT STREET ARMORY IN MANCHESTER FOR THE PURPOSE OF FORMING A STATE BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN LEGION. IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARD A MEETING WAS HELD OF JUST MANCHESTER SERVICEMEN AND ACTIVE STEPS WERE TAKEN TO ORGANIZE A POST IN MANCHESTER. THE VETERANS DECIDED TO NAME THE POST AFTER PRIVATE HENRY J. SWEENEY (PICTURED BELOW), THE FIRST MANCHESTER MAN TO BE KILLED IN ACTION DURING WORLD WAR I.



DEDICATION

This History Book is dedicated to Commander Scott Johnston. His leadership and advise had led to Sweeney Post #2 to an outstanding success for the Post.



ACKNOWLEDGE

I want to acknowledge George W. Smith (Past Historian 1995-1996) for his work on Sweeney Post #2 Album which provided the inspiration and guidance for making this album book.



INSTALLATION

New Officers for Sweeney Post #2



(Left to right) Jim Gosenbeck (Sargent at Arms),
William Roy (Adjutant),
Jim Roland (Junior Vice Commander),
Scott Johnston (Commander),
Paul Towers (Senior Vice Commander),
Thomas Elwood (Judge Advocate),
Dave Quinn (Finance),
Wayne Mitchell (Historian)

Commander's Appointment

Adjutant

William Roy

Honor Guard Committee

Jim Gosenbeck

Entertainment Committee

Paul Tower

Lori Tower (Aux)

Brian Smith (SAL)

Gold Card Committee

Charles LeVeille

James Barry

Mike Lopez

Casey Heron Golf Tourn.

Brain LeVeille

Canteen Committee

Dave Quinn

Sean Callahan

Paul Tower

Finance Committee

William Biser

House Committee

Jim Ronan

Sean Callahan

Paul Tower

Ron Goupil

Ron Talbot

Membership Committee

Paul Tower

Mike Lopez

Brian Pike

Audit Committee

Ron Goupil

Steve Soule

Chris Prunier

Americanism Committee

Tony Violanti

Service Officer

Dan Thibodeau

Athletic/Baseball Committee

Brian LeVeille

Boys State

Executive Board Members

Sean Callahan

Dan Beliveau

Mike Lopez

Norman Gravel

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



Thank you to all who supported my run for post commander. I would like to thank the outgoing Commander Norm Gravel for all his hard work and dedication for the post and the American Legion in the past years. I am looking forward to continuing this work over the next year, I am excited to share this responsibility, with the new officers. We have a balanced mix of new and experienced leaders that will make my transition and role much easier.

Our post has many programs that serve veterans as well as our community with your help and support we can continue that tradition. If you have any idea how to help our veterans, I would like to hear from you. We encourage our members to get involved, come to meetings and events that we sponsor.

As you can see, we are making improvements to our post. We are in a transition stage with much more work to be done. Please bear with us as we make these changes. The majority of the work is being done by volunteers, so your patience is greatly appreciated. I would like to thank the volunteers that have done so much work in the Post already. Post cleanup went very well we had 51 volunteers from a program of the Post. I would like to give a special thank you to Sue Smith for all her hard work in coordinating all the people to get the Post cleaned in a short amount of time. Without people who take time out of their busy schedule to help the Post would not be this great Post that it is. Let's keep up the good work.

We would love to see you at the meetings. Sons of American legion's meetings are held on the Third Monday of each month. The American Legion Meetings are on the fourth Tuesday of each month and the Auxiliary meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

Looking forward to a great year at Sweeney Post
In comradeship,
Scott Johnston
Commander
Henry J. Sweeney Post #2

SUPPORT

Kitchen Help

Main Staff

Sue Smith (Kitchen Coordinator)
Kelly O'Brian (Assistant)
Jean Flurey (Main Catering Help)
Linda Droll (Main Catering Help)
Ron St. Hiaire (Catering Help)
Brian Smith (Catering Help)

Volunteers

Dave Cefulko
Renee Studer
Jimmy MacNichol
Dan LeMay
Jim Grosnbeck
Jimmy Barbera

Dan Beliveau
Lisa Johnston
Stephanie Tardiff
Ann Guillemette
Jimie Pelchat
Sara Kelley

Verna Beliveau
Mary Kay MacNichol
Justia Coutu
Jim Guillemette
Jim Ronan
Wendy Audet

Boys of Summer

Garth Seiberth
Sean Callahan
George Carter

Paul Towers
Scott Johnston
Marty Sullivan

Dan Gaulia
Ron Goupit

Honor Guard



Scott Johnston

Bill Biser

Ken Nelson

Jim Grosenbeck (Sgt. At Arms)

Wayne Mitchell

Standbys

Tony Violanti

Bob Patrick

Marty Sullivan

Drill Team



Scott Johnston (commander)

Paul Towers

Marty Sullivan

George Bulger

Danica Lupa

Mark Lupa

Jimmy Barbara

Bryan Hamel

PERic Pelchat

Gold Card Members

Paul Martineau

Bill Morin Jim Connolly

Bill Biser

Jim Gosenbeck

EVENTS

Donation of a Bugle



Roger Roy

Bibiana Rummler

Scott Johnston
(Commander)

Jim Gosenbeck
(Sergeant at Arms)

Roger Roy and Bibiana Rummler from McHugh Funeral Home donated an electronic bugle to the Post (September 2022).

Honor Flight

(From left to right) Wayne Mitchell and Jim Gosenbeck

September 2022



On September 25th, 2022, two of our own members of Sweeney Post were selected to participate in the Honor Flight to Washington DC. Wayne Mitchell, Historian and Jim Gosenbeck, Sargent of Arms for Sweeney Post #2, left out of Boston's Logan Airport, heading to Washington DC. While at Logan, all of the participating veterans were greeted with applause, handshakes and thanks for their years of service.

The day included visits to the various memorials honoring WWII, Korean and Vietnam veterans. Both Wayne and Jim stated that it was an experience they will never forget.

Pearl Harbor Day



District Commander Dan Beliveau delivers the commemoration on December 4th at Arms Park in Manchester, NH.

**2022 NATURALIZATION CEREMONY
At
AMERICAN LEGION SWEENEY POST #2, MANCHESTER, NH**



The first off site administrative Naturalization ceremony since November 2019 was conducted at the American Legion Sweeney Post #2 on Thursday, May 19th. Twenty-five new citizens were sworn in from 24 different countries. Distinguished guests included representatives from the four Congressional offices, the DAR, the VFW Auxiliary, Department Commander Arkwell, and Sweeney Post Commander Johnston. Naturalization Chairman Tony Violanti delivered the keynote address. There were 2 members of the United States military included in the twenty-five new citizens. The USCIS team included Director Andrea Rogers who administered the oath of allegiance. Three members of the USCIS team were also recognized for their service to the military. Many thanks were given to USCIS and the American Legion for hosting this solemn ceremony.

Induction of New Members



Swear In Ceremonies for New Members by Cmdr. Johnston



New Members

Past Commanders Dinner



(Front row and left to right)
Alan Heidenreich (Past Cmdr.)
Mile Lopez (Past Cmdr.)
Ron LeMay (Past Cmdr.)

(Rear row and left to right)
Bill Morin (Chaplain)
Jim Barbera (current Cmdr. of SAL)
Dan Beliveau (Past Cmdr.)
Paul Martineau (Past Cmdr.)
Bill Roy (Past Cmdr.)
Paul Porter (Past Cmdr.)
Lori Towers (President of Women Auxiliary)

The Past Commanders Dinner and ceremony was held on October 7, 2022 with eight past commanders being honored. Master of Ceremony, Paul Martineau asked Chaplain Bill Morin to open dinner with a prayer. A toast was made by Cmdr. Martineau to all branches of the military services. Dinner was prepared by our talented kitchen staff and served by volunteers from Sons of Legion and the Women Auxiliary. Post dinner, Cmdr. Martineau asked for a moment of silence for our departed past commanders. He also thanked our present commanders for their service and time given to the Post.

Singing Trooper



On Sunday August 21, 2022, members and guests of Sweeney Post were treated to the multi-talented “Singing Trooper” Dan Clark, assisted by his wife Mary Calaruso.

The Singing Trooper gears his shows toward different audiences. In this particular case, veterans and military members. Patriotic songs and songs from various branches of the armed services were some of the highlights of the show.

Audience participation was encouraged but then again with his upbeat style, members of the audience couldn't help but join in.

Annual Quilt Awards



Winners for Annual Quilt Awards

(left to right)

Veterans Day



Volunteers for the Honor Guard at Veterans Park, Manchester, NH

Vietnam Wall



Legion Riders Color Guard at Donati Park in Hooksett for Vietnam Wall

Henry Wilson Elementary School



At the Wilson Elementary School, the students presented demonstrated the support on Veterans Day.

Donation to the School Board

Donating the American flag to the School Board of Manchester.



(from left to right)

Superintendent of Schools Ms. Jennifer Gillis

Mayor Joyce Graig

Cmdr. Scott Johnston

On March 9th at the Selectmen Chambers, Commander Johnston from Sweeney Post #2, presented to Super. Ms. Gillis and Mayor Graig an American flag for the public schools to be displayed.

Vietnam Veterans Celebration at City Hall



(front row only) Ray Goulet Mayor Graig Mike Lopez

On March 22th, a Presentation of the Vietnam War Memorial Display was presented to the city of Manchester at City Hall to mark the beginning of the Vietnam Veterans Day.

IN MEMORANDUM



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Kalitz, Joseph

Kotekas, Ernest

Lambert, Raymond

Lamy, Raymond

Laughton, David

Lavigne, Maurice

Lefebvre, Alain

Levandowski, John

McCutcheon, Michael

McGuinness, Clifford

Syrek, Timothy

Tardiff, Ronald

Tucker, Kevin

Wieczorek, Raymond

Wyman, Arthur

Miles, Richard

Moe, Howard

Mullen, Harold

Muszynski, George

Nacos, Lou

Nielsen, Scott

Neustein, David

Panteli, Angelo

Paris, Leo

Pelletier, Robert

Phelps, John

Pollock, Richard

Poulos, Evangelos

Provencher, Albert

Rose, Mary

Sasseville, Roger

Sassman, Edward

Shea, James

Silva, Fernando

Sutton, Wilson

Tellier, George

Tishkevich, Edward

Zapora, Richard