

# VFW Post 6258 Membership Meeting Sept 10, 2020

## Halifax Town Hall, Massachusetts

Presiding Officer: Commander, David Walsh

Meeting 7:00pm to 7:55pm

Salute to the Flag and Pledge of Allegiance – Chaplain absent, no opening prayer.

**REPORTS FROM THE COMMANDER:** (a) New members to our VFW Post 6258 were welcomed: (Navy)Thomas Petruzzelli from Abington, (Army)Paul Ecker from Halifax, (Marines)Jerrold Zweihorn from Carver, (Navy)Richard Sherwood from Carver, (Army)Richard Adams from Halifax. By their distinguished service to their Country they are now part on an elite group of Warriors that made it possible for our Great Nation to enjoy the Freedom that exists nowhere else on Earth. (b) We have a new sound system but it is not set up to be used tonight but will be used for our meetings inside and outside gatherings for speeches and Patriotic Music etc.

**QUARTERMASTERS FINANCIAL REPORT:** (Dave Walmsley) We have a balance of \$5,666.98 (we had no deposits) withdrawals of \$290.00 our Total Balance is \$4,958.98 in our General Fund. In our Relief Fund we have \$ 4,000 some odd dollars. **(I forgot to bring that statement)**. (Balance Total of around \$9,000). This month in September we give a grant of \$1,000 for Kingston and Halifax. We are financially sound.

**SENIOR VICE COMMANDER:** (Bill Finn) Beginning of this shutdown in the State during the pandemic we have purchased \$200 worth of cereal that we donated to the Halifax Food Pantry and also want to thank my neighbor who's Army Veteran husband had died and she donated ( 3 ) wheelchairs to the Halifax Council on Aging. And, please pause and remember 9/11 events tomorrow.

**ADJUTANT / JUDGE ADVOCATE:** (Vin Burdziuk) Nothing new to report as everything was already sent to the membership in our Email Newsletter(s). \*(Note: Our newsletters are sent out bi-weekly).

**COMMANDERS COMMENTS:** (Dave Walsh) Commented on the great job with our newsletter and our VFW District 12 (South Eastern Massachusetts) which also encompasses Cape Cod and the Islands. Because of you folks you ended up last year as being the TOP POST in DISTRICT 12. So you were the #1 Post in South Eastern Massachusetts.

**JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER & SERVICE OFFICER:** (Stephenie Jones) Not in Attendance

**CHAPLAIN:** (David McPhillips) Not in Attendance

**SURGEON:** (Buzz Smith) Was asked to talk about the 75th Anniversary of the second Kamikaze strike on USS Cassin Young. (USS Cassin Young a Fletcher-class destroyer is currently a museum ship in the Charlestown Navy Yard, part of Boston National Historical Park). Buzz said that Monday a little after One O'Clock if you have ZOOM on your computer you can register for my talk on the ship I volunteer on. I have been doing several of these for the Lexington Veterans Association. And they asked me to do one just for them combining the ship and volunteering that we do. They will also be posting a YouTube link for those who didn't participate on ZOOM. Basically, it goes over the history of the ship a little bit than what we do is a shameless plug (ask) for volunteers at the end to try and get more help. We do everything from Chipping paint to electrical, plumbing, give tours etc. The ship is open to the public (Main Deck Only) during the Pandemic.

**COMMANDERS COMMENTS:** (Dave Walsh) Commander Walsh proudly showed us our new VFW Post 6258 Flag and pointed out how well its made and will be used in our Post ceremonies and parades. He also talked about our new sound system and that its the same one used on the Coast Guard Cutter. The sound system, secured, financed, and donated by Dennis Olson Sr. and Bruce Thomas.



**COMRADES IN DISTRESS:** We lost a Marine a Life Member from Halifax. Thomas Boyd, a 2 tour veteran of Vietnam. Thomas was a long-time member of our VFW Post 6258. He will be sadly missed. We also lost another comrade who was not a member of our post Charles Raymand who served in the United States Army in which our Honor Guard and Members attended here in Halifax. It was a nice ceremony and they did a fantastic job. If we know any Comrades in Distress we have a RELIEF FUND just let us know?

Hats off to Lawrence Smith he attended 2 burials of Veterans whose ashes were abandoned at a funeral home in Hingham for decades. One was an Army Air Corps World War II Veteran. The other was Army Infantry World War I Veteran. Buzz was there and commented that they were not alone and Military Honors were given.

**COMMANDERS COMMENTS ON FIELD OF FLAGS:** We put out 450 flags (one every square foot). They were put on the Halifax Town Green on May 15<sup>th</sup> and took them down June 6<sup>th</sup>. Comrades Walmsley, Finn, Burdziuk, Jones, Olson, Curtis, and Walsh. We thank you guy's for coming and doing all that work. On May 25 we had a Memorial Day exercise so people wouldn't have forgotten Memorial Day because everything else was being abandoned. We had a nice Memorial Day Ceremony with a 11 year old Bagpiper, Honor Guard, and Post 65 Members and Dave Walmsley was there dressed in full uniform with his Navy Whites.



**COMMANDERS COMMENTS CONTINUED:** Commander Dave Walsh asked Quartermater Dave Wlamsley if another \$200 is available to donate to the food pantry. It was. Also, the Commander thanked Bill Fin and Buzz Smith again for attending the Zoom Officers Training Instructions which is a requirement for a Post to be ALL STATE ALL AMERICAN POST.

**OLD-NEW BUSINESS:** Hats off to Sean Ready he is a Police Sergeant from Pembroke and a Command Sergeant Major in the National Guard. He has been on active duty on and off and we thank him for that. We thank Steve Littlefield Sergeant 1<sup>st</sup> Class National Guard Field Artillery. We thank Bruce Thomas CW03 who is on active duty in the Coast Guard we thank him for his work helping out. We thank Dave Gaspar is working full time in Marshfield as a letter carrier. Letter carriers are first responders. We thank Christina Bulman from Plympton, she was an MP in the Army and is now a Registered Nurse at South Shore Hospital.

All Memorial Day activities have been scrapped and so was our visit at the Childrens Hospital due to Covid -19 worries. Also we will not be going into the schools to read to the kids this Fall like we did last year.

The schools will be doing the Patriots Pen Essay Contest for 6, 7, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Every year we get 250 to 300 entrants.

We will be nominating Sharon Davis for 1<sup>st</sup> Responder Award. Nomination needs to be submitted by January 1<sup>st</sup>. She is a Paramedic. Worked for the Fire Department. Now she is a Captain. She received 2 awards from each community she worked in. She will be nominated as our candidate from our Post.

Comrade Rob Brown who got busted up on his left side... I have his telephone number here if anyone would like to give him a call. He is in the VA West Roxbury Hospital.

Does anyone have any ideas or recommendations on the Teacher of the Year Nomination? Think about it.

We will be giving out Thanksgiving Turkeys again in November.

Iwo Jima Marine who was in the 3<sup>rd</sup> wave... Jim Ingargiola will be celebrating his 96<sup>th</sup> birthday in November, thinking of getting a few Marines together and going over to see him for some War Stories.

Can we set up candy stands for the kids in Town for Halloween? Is it something we can do? Will get our name out and we could hand out VFW info to the parents. Will give us some exposure.

November 11 Ceremony at 11:00am. VFW Post 6258 Color Guard, Bagpiper will play Amazing Grace. We will also have a Bugler there to play TAPS.

We will do a Poppy Drive on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday leading up to Wednesday November 11. There will be a FREE Raffle of Military Blankets inside the Walmart Store.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:** Quartermaster Dave Walmsley called up the Master at Arms and said 6 months ago we had a meeting here and I went through donations and Dave won the raffle and Dennis donated some money to the Post. I missed giving you recognition. Its been 6 months I want to say I'm sorry and thank you for your help.

**REQUEST FOR ADJOURNMENT: 7:55pm**

**FINAL SALUTE TO THE FLAG (SALUTE ONLY) OFFICER OF DAY**