

THE MAINE TROOP GREETERS SPRING NEWSLETTER



Vol. 3 Issue 2

APR - JUN 2014

WELCOME
NEW
TROOP GREETERS
JAN - MARCH
2014

Amelia Poole 1/17/14
David Spruce 1/30/14

Cindy G.T. King 2/3/14

Donald Russell 3/9/14

Rebecca Stanslaus 3/24/14

Welcome to the Spring issue of our Newsletter. According to the calendar, winter is over..... time to look over those seed catalogs, try and recall where you stored your fishing gear, and start thinking about the Red Sox. Along the way, be sure and schedule in time to meet flights and greet the Troops.

OUR MISSION The mission of The Maine Troop Greeters is to express the Nation's gratitude and appreciation to those Troops going overseas for a safe return and for those returning, for a joyful homecoming and to make their (hopefully brief) stay in Bangor as comfortable and pleasant as possible.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE: I look forward to each newsletter written and published by wonderful volunteers. Please seek them out, thank them, and let them know what you want in the newsletter.

I hear rumblings that we are not taking care of the Troops, only focusing on getting funds for a museum. Washington maintains that all troops will be out of Afghanistan by the end of 2014. Our vision statement of 2011 clearly states 3 goals: **1. Greet the troops, 2. Preserve the collection and 3. Educate the public.** If we have no Charter Troop flights, we could and should lose our Greeter Room. We must have plans and funds for the collection (the room full of "memorabilia"). I see this museum as a healing place for the Troops, their families, the community and the Greeters, much like the Vietnam Wall. We can build a museum in sections, if necessary.

We have to ask the Community for help **so we can care for the Troops now and preserve the collection.** Our Troops are still our first priority, but we can do both with your help.

With so few flights it is very difficult to make sure we know "the scoop." Please don't spread stories. Get involved, talk to Board and Committee members, and/or join a committee. The Troops know if we have internal issues that are not being addressed. Work with us.

Chuck Knowlen

AS OF MARCH 31, 2014





GREETERS PROFILE:

Norm Rossignol was born in Old Town, the second oldest in a family of seven children. Drafted at the age of eighteen into the Army in January 1944, Norm received two weeks of basic training before sent on for five months of Advanced Infantry training. After being sent to Scotland, his unit arrived in Normandy thirty two days after D-Day, and was quickly sent to the front where Norm says “the Germans came on us and wiped out half my squad. They surprised us.” Because Norm had a French speaking background, he was often used as an interpreter during his time in France. It was while in France that Norm was awarded the Bronze Star. His unit spent the winter in the Ardennes Forest, most of the time in a fox hole, and by March they had reached the Rhine River. Shortly after V-E Day they met up with Russian forces in Czechoslovakia

After the war, Norm transferred to Communications where he became a radio operator and eventually a cryptologist...an expert on codes. With the outbreak of the Korean Conflict, Norm returned to the Infantry and was sent to Korea for a ten month tour of combat duty. Returning once again to Communications, he was eventually posted to Christmas Island in the South Pacific in the 60's. It was at this time that the U.S. was carrying out nuclear testing within five to ten miles from where Norm was stationed. Eventually he was transferred back to Europe. In total, he would serve thirteen of his twenty years in Europe.

After leaving the service Norm and his wife Connie settled in Brewer, and he began a twenty five year career as an electrician with the University in Orono. After leaving the University, Norm and Connie operated a take-out food shop in Brewer for a short period. Connie passed away last year just a few days shy of their fifty-eighth wedding anniversary. Norm has always been an outdoorsman, and still loves to snowmobile. He has been a Troop Greeter since 2003, and continues to be one of our most faithful greeters, meeting as many flights as he can.

LETTER OF APPRECIATION: My son returned from Afghanistan last week after a nine month deployment. On February 6 at 8:30 P.M. he texted that he had “just landed in Bangor, Maine, and they had a line of people to greet us.”

I want to thank all those wonderful people who took a chunk of time out of their day after all these years to make my son feel special as he landed in America, since I couldn't be there to welcome him home. You are deeply appreciated.

Thank you,
Debbie McKay
Crawley, Texas

As appeared in the Bangor Daily News, Letter to the Editor Feb. 19, 2014

SICK CALL: Troop Greeter Don Factor continues to recover from being injured when struck by a truck a few weeks ago in Brewer. If you would like to send a card, the address is: 454 State St, Bangor, Maine 04401.

IN SYMPATHY: Condolences to the families of the following Troop Greeters who have recently passed away.

Neil Bishop	January 28, 2014
Chris Warren Kopang	February 9, 2014
Robert Del Guidice	March 22, 2014

HONORING Bill Knight : The Maine Senate honored Bill Knight with a memorial ceremony at the State House in Augusta on April 9. Gerry Mundy represented Maine Troop Greeters at the ceremony.

RECOGNITION AWARD: George Bridgham was recognized at our general meeting on March 22, as the Greeter who has met the most flights since our annual meeting in November 2013. This is the second time George has received this award. **WAY TO GO GEORGE.**



MEET YOUR NEW GREETERS:

Pam and Kerry Spofford, both longtime Bangor residents, have been Troop Greeters since September 2013.

Q. Are you a Veteran?

A. Kerry - Yes, I was stationed at Loring Air Force Base from 1974 to 1977. Then I went into the Air National Guard in Bangor, and was a crew chief on tankers.

Q. How did you become involved with Troop Greeters?

A. Kerry - I was asked to gather some clowns to help entertain the kids at a going away party for one of the local troops going overseas. This was a fun event, so I wanted to keep doing something to support our troops so we become troop greeters. This is a great way of volunteering for our military.

Q. What do you enjoy most greeting our troops?

A.We enjoy supporting the troops coming and going. We want to let the troops know we care about them while they are overseas...It gives us great pleasure to make a difference in someone's lives, and a smile or a hug is very comforting from someone who cares.

Q. What are your hobbies?

A.Kerry - My interest is in clowning - I am an Anah Shrine Clown - Spiffy, and NASCAR.

A.Pam - I do a lot of knitting for kids, this gives me great pleasure to make something warm for others.

Maine Troop Greeters: The Early Years

In the last issue of the Newsletter, we listed the names of Troop Greeters who were members in 2003 when the organization started. The following names were left off and should be added to the list: Debbie Bickford, Larry Spinney and Carol Ann Johnson

TROOP GREETER MUSEUM PROJECT: Machias Savings Bank has presented Maine Troop Greeters with a check for \$2500 to go toward the funding of a museum to house the collection of memorabilia that has been donated to our organization over the years. This museum is to be housed in the Bangor International Airport terminal building. The check presentation ceremony took place on March 25 at the airport.



Award: Maine Troop Greeters received a Certificate of Thanks, a unit coin, and a flag with the arrival of a flight in the early morning hours of January 20, 2014. These awards were presented by Commander Collins USN, the officer to the right in the photo. Commander Collin's family from Greenville Me. was present for the award presentation.

Calendar of Events:

May 17 - Armed Forces Day: Open House 1 P.M. - 4 P.M. Bangor International Airport. Korean War Vets to be honored. Watch for more details.

May 24 – Veteran's Grave Flag Day: Plan on attending this event at the Veteran's Cemetery in Augusta at 9:00 A.M. Flags will be placed at the grave sites.

May 26 - Memorial Day – Support events and activities in your area to honor those who have served and passed away..

24 HOUR CLOCK: For these of you who have a problem with 24 hour time, Margaret Puckett has designed this diagram to help you.

24 Hour Clock

In a 24 hour clock time is read as a four digit set of numbers. The first two digits represent the hour and the last two digits represent minutes.

0215 = 2:15 A.M.

Hour Minutes.

1400 = 2:00 P.M.

Hour Minutes.

