

R O B E R T I . N I C K E R S O N

# AMERICAN LEGION • POST 382 • SQUANTUM, MASS.



**Best Post on the East Coast**

20 Moon Island Road, Squantum MA 02171 • 617-328-9824 • nickersonpost382@verizon.net

## COMMANDERS CORNER

### GREETINGS MEMBERS,

I hope everyone is excited about the return to spring weather. I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays. Your Post had a great December, participating Toys for Tots program and hosting the Army Navy Game and our annual Christmas party. The post has upcoming plans that include the annual spring cleanup, Derby Day and participating in the Memorial Day and Fourth of July ceremonies. We are also planning a golf tournament in June and a blood drive with the Red Cross in March. Please stop by the post for details. We will have our annual Installation ceremony on June 20th at 7pm where we will give out scholarships. As a reminder if you have any relatives or friends who are deployed or going to be deployed the Post will send them a care package and we will gladly host a welcome home party. We encourage everyone to participate in these events and welcome any ideas to host local charity events. Please visit our website or stop by and check the bulletin post for further details.



*John Diggins, Post Commander*

### Post Meetings

<b>April</b> -----	
<b>Members</b> .....	Monday, April 7, 2025 6:30
<b>May</b> -----	
<b>Members</b> .....	Monday, May 5, 2025 6:30
<b>June</b> -----	
<b>Members</b> .....	Friday, June 20, 2025 6:30

### Post Hours

<b>Sunday</b> .....	12pm to 12am
<b>Monday</b> .....	2pm to 11pm
<b>Tuesday</b> .....	2pm to 11pm
<b>Wednesday</b> .....	2pm to 11pm
<b>Thursday</b> .....	2pm to 12am
<b>Friday</b> .....	2pm to 12am
<b>Saturday</b> .....	12pm to 12am

*All regular members are welcome to attend members meetings*

*KENO ends 30 min. prior to closing each night*

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*Hall Rentals*

Our hall is a great place for smaller functions and is here for the members and their friends. This will allow us to keep a

close watch on who's renting, The hall rental price is \$350 for members w/bartender. Please sign in all guests! The guest book is under Schwarzkopf's picture.

**SPRING CLEAN UP**



The 'Post will hold it's Annual Spring Cleanup on Saturday, April 27, 2025 at 9am. We will have cleaning supplies on hand, but throw a rake into your trunk just in case. As in every military operation, hot coffee and donuts will be on hand for your fortification.

**American Legion Scholarship Program**

RI Nickerson Post scholarship applications for the 2025 year will be available at the



Post or Councilors office at NQHS. Eligible applicants must be a SR. in High School, a resident of Squantum or relative of a member of the R. I Nickerson Post. Closing date for submission is April 4th. Applications can be returned to the Post or NQHS councilors office. Any?'s call Bob Verney 617-997-8407 or e-mail at [rverney@comcast.net](mailto:rverney@comcast.net).



***The Post Hosted the Marine Corp Birthday Celebration on November 10th. Here the birthday cake is cut by the oldest and youngest marine.***

# “THE BEST POST ON THE EAST COAST”

## ROBERT J. NICKERSON POST NO. 382

### Featured Article

by Marc Connolly



### The Battle for Iwo Jima

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the Battle for Iwo Jima. D-Day on Iwo was early on the morning of February 19, 1945 when the combat-loaded assault units of the 3rd, 4th and 5th Marine Divisions came ashore on the black volcanic sands of Iwo Jima. March 3rd – D-Day plus 12, was a day of incredible violence and unbelievable heroism for the 5th Marine Division. Five men received the Medal of Honor, and 519 fell mortally wounded in the maelstrom of fighting, as the Marines finally took their objective at Nishi Ridge. That same day, a young Marine from Quincy, PFC William R. Caddy, then nineteen, had been pinned-down with his unit for more than three hours – in the same determined fight. PFC Caddy was a well-regarded, somewhat boisterous youth, who was proud of a recent promotion to assistant squad leader. He had all the necessary qualifications for a Marine Grunt: an expert rifleman; a solid but wiry physique; a strong sense of discipline; ingrained qualities of leadership; and above all; a complete dedication to his comrades – a devotion that would earn him the Medal of Honor and claim his life. After a grinding 36-day assault across the heavily fortified pacific island, where



American casualties exceeded 26,000, with over 6,800 killed in action; Admiral Chester Nimitz declared, “The Battle of Iwo Jima has been won. Among the Americans who served on Iwo, uncommon valor was a common virtue.” It is important that we not only

honor our veterans, but also, ensure their sacrifices are remembered, including the four (4) young Marines from Quincy, who were tragically killed at Iwo Jima:

- **PVT Malcolm MacPherson** – Killed -in-Action – February 19, 1945
- **PVT John W. Jackson** – Killed-in-Action – March 3, 1945
- **PFC William R. Caddy** – Killed-in-Action – March 3, 1945
- **PVT John R. Koski** – Killed-in-Action – March 12, 1945

The William R. Caddy Detachment #124 of the Marine Corps League holds its monthly meetings at the Nickerson Post on the first Saturday of the month at 1:00 PM (except July & August).

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**Captain Richard A. Stratton, USN, Ret.,  
flew his final mission home on January 18, 2025.**

Born October 14, 1931, in the City of Presidents, Quincy, MA, Dick was educated in the Quincy public schools' system, of which he was extremely proud. He entered the United States Navy Aviation Officer Candidate Program and was designated a Naval Aviator on March 1, 1957. CDR Stratton deployed to Southeast Asia with CVW-19 aboard the aircraft carrier USS Ticonderoga from June 1966 until he was shot down and forced to eject over North Vietnam. He was taken as a Prisoner of War on January 5, 1967. After spending 2,251 days in captivity, and enduring inhumane treatment including torture, CDR Stratton was released during Operation Homecoming on March 4, 1973. He was awarded the Silver Star for Valor, Purple Heart, and P.O.W. medal among many

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**Coast Guard Boston Trip**

*The Post is planning a visit to the Coast Guard Station in the North End. Stay tuned for details on the web and bulletin board.*

**Bravo-Zulu**

*Edward Swartz donated winter clothes to the Brockton VA for homeless veterans. Thanks to Ed for his thoughtfulness.*



**Dues! Dues! Dues!**

*Our fiscal year runs from June 1st until May 31. During June we balance our books. Dues are due starting July 1 either at the Post or online. May 1st is our target date for 100% paid membership. If you receive a notice from Department or National Headquarters and feel you paid for the fiscal year, please contact Mike Norris at [Mcnorris1@gmail.com](mailto:Mcnorris1@gmail.com) if you have any questions.*



The American Legion Nickerson Post Auxiliary has been busy this spring. The mission of the Auxiliary is to assist the Veterans Community and the Nickerson Post.

**Easter Egg Hunt**

The Post's annual Easter Hunt will be April 13 at 9am. Please contact Kelly Norris at the email address below. Good luck to all the **scramblers!**



**[knorris02171@gmail.com](mailto:knorris02171@gmail.com)**

**Sons of the American Legion**

**Golf Day!**

Please come out on June 14th for a great day of friendly competition to benefit a local charity. Food and entertainment will be provided as we take in the sun and the great views. Teams will compete in a round robin tournament with great prizes for the winners.



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**80th Anniversary of VE Day**



Members of the Post attended a Veterans Day ceremony at the Quincy World War Two memorial

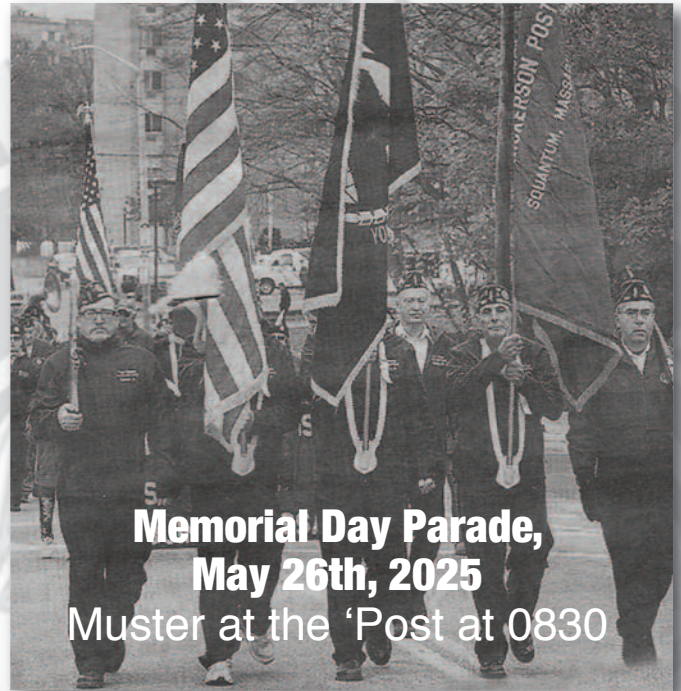
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**The military Exchange is available for all veterans to shop on-line. Go to [shopmyexchange.com](http://shopmyexchange.com) to enroll.**

**OUR NEWSLETTER -To save on mailing costs in the future, we hope to have as many people as possible receive the newsletter by email. This will also be helpful for any announcements between issues. Please visit our website, [nickersonpost.com](http://nickersonpost.com), to enter your email.**

# Derby Day!

The Post will host a Derby Day on May 3, 2025 (3pm to 7pm) to watch the Kentucky Derby. Best Bonnet prize is \$100.



**Memorial Day Parade,  
May 26th, 2025  
Muster at the 'Post at 0830**

## Blood Drive

The Post will host a blood drive on Saturday, March 29th, 9am-2pm. To help Paul organize the drive, contact his email at [pprefontaine15@gmail.com](mailto:pprefontaine15@gmail.com) if you want to volunteer. Thanks!



Robert I. Nickerson Post, 382  
20 Moon Island Road  
Squantum, MA 02171



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other military decorations and awards for his conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while imprisoned by the North Vietnamese. He earned the pejorative nickname “Yankee Air Pirate” by his captors, a moniker he came to embrace with pride! He ended his career on July 1, 1986, as the Director of the Naval Academy Preparatory School, Newport, Rhode Island.



*USS Ticonderoga*



*CWV-19 aircraft*