



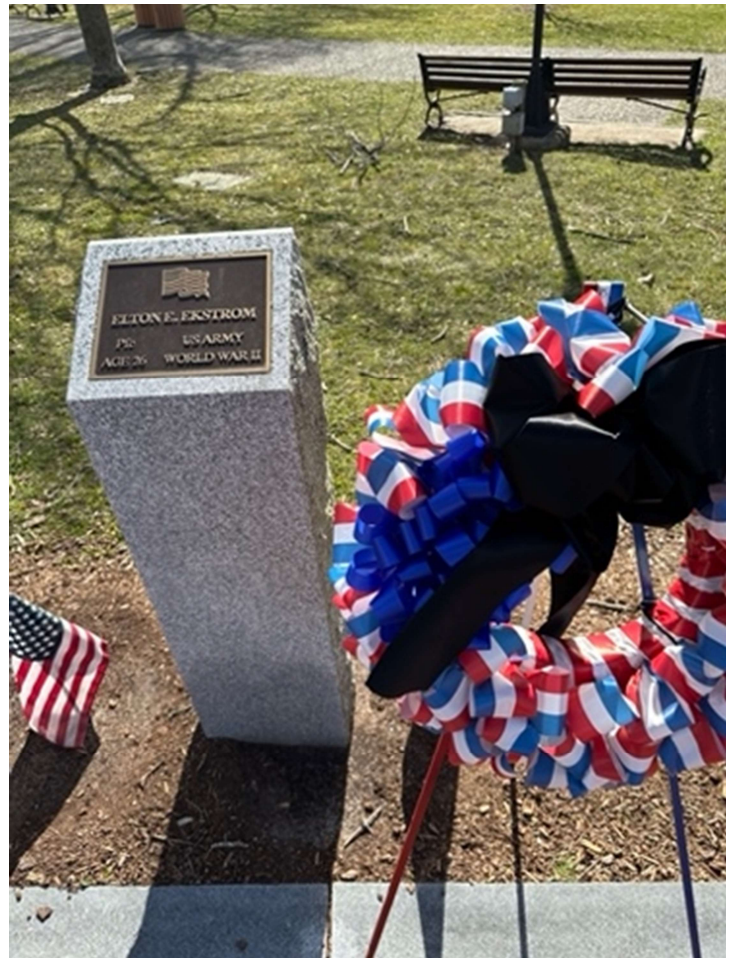
SUMMER 2024 NEWSLETTER **AMERICAN LEGION EDWARD L. GRANT POST 75** **FRANKLIN, MA**

WELCOME TO THE FIRST EDITION OF OUR POST'S NEWSLETTER. IT IS THE INTENT OF YOUR POST TO PUBLISH THIS NEWSLETTER ONCE A QUARTER TO KEEP ALL POST MEMBERS INFORMED OF ACTIVITIES OF THE POST. WE RECOGNIZE THAT MANY OF OUR MEMBERS DO NOT ATTEND POST MEETINGS, AND A LARGE NUMBER DO NOT HAVE EMAIL ABILITY, SO FOR THOSE FOLKS, THIS NEWSLETTER WILL BE MAILED.

FALLEN VETERAN'S CEREMONIES

THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE VISITED THE BEAUTIFUL FRANKLIN MEMORIAL AREA ON THE TOWN COMMON KNOW THAT THERE ARE 45 GRANITE COLUMNS, ONE FOR EACH OF OUR VETERANS WHO DIED SERVING THEIR COUNTRY. BEGINNING IN JANUARY THIS YEAR, YOUR POST, IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE FRANKLIN VFW POST HOLDS A REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY FOR EACH ONE OF THE 45 FALLEN HEROES ON THE DATE OF THEIR DEATH AT 9:00 AM. AT THEIR MONUMENT.

WE HAVE CONDUCTED 26 OF THESE CEREMONIES THUS FAR, AND IN AUGUST WE WILL HOLD 4 MORE, INCLUDING 2 ON AUGUST 15TH. HERE IS A PICTURE OF THE WREATH THAT IS PLACED BY THE MARKER FOR THE DAY. THE VETERAN'S HISTORY IS RECITED, A PRAYER IS READ IN HIS HONOR, AND A SALUTE FROM ALL PRESENT ALONG WITH TAPS PLAYED IS RENDERED. YOU ARE ALL INVITED TO ATTEND ANY OF THESE CEREMONIES. CONTACT COMMANDER DICK HYNES AT 508-735-5509 FOR THE SCHEDULE.



POST ELECTIONS

AT OUR JUNE POST MEETING, WE HELD OUR ANNUAL ELECTIONS. YOUR OFFICER CORPS FOR THE 2024 - 2025 YEAR IS AS FOLLOWS:

**POST COMMANDER
SENIOR VICE COMMANDER
JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER
FINANCE OFFICER
CHAPLAIN
SGT AT ARMS
VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER
HISTORIAN
QUARTERMASTER**

**DICK HYNES
JOHN MILOT
JOHN HEFELE
DAVE LABONTE
BOB MARKUNIS
DAWN ANDERSON
SHANNON NISBETT
STEVE SZILNICZKY
FRANK COUGHLIN**

STRAWBERRY STROLL

ONCE AGAIN, YOUR POST PARTICIPATED IN THE STRAWBERRY STROLL ON JUNE 7. IT IS A WONDERFUL EVENT, WHERE WE GET TO SHOW THE TOWN SOME OF OUR ACTIVITIES AND MEET OTHER VETERANS. THE FRANKLIN HARVEST FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD IN THE COMING MONTHS! COME DOWN AND SEE YOUR POST IN ACTION.



VETERAN FUNERAL FLAG SUPPORT

WHEN A FRANKLIN VETERAN'S FUNERAL IS HELD IN TOWN, YOUR POST, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE VFW, AT 6:30 AM PUTS UP ALL THE FLAGS DOWNTOWN TO HONOR THEM. THE FLAGS REMAIN UP UNTIL 3:30 PM, WHEN THEY ARE REMOVED. IT REQUIRES 2-3 MEMBERS FOR RAISING THEM AND LOWERING THEM. JR. VICE COMMANDER JOHN HEFELE SENDS OUT EMAIL NOTIFICATION WHEN WE ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THIS SERVICE. IF YOU CAN ASSIST WITH RAISING THE FLAGS IN THE MORNING OR RETIRING THEM IN THE AFTERNOON, THAT WOULD BE A GREAT HELP TO THE POST.



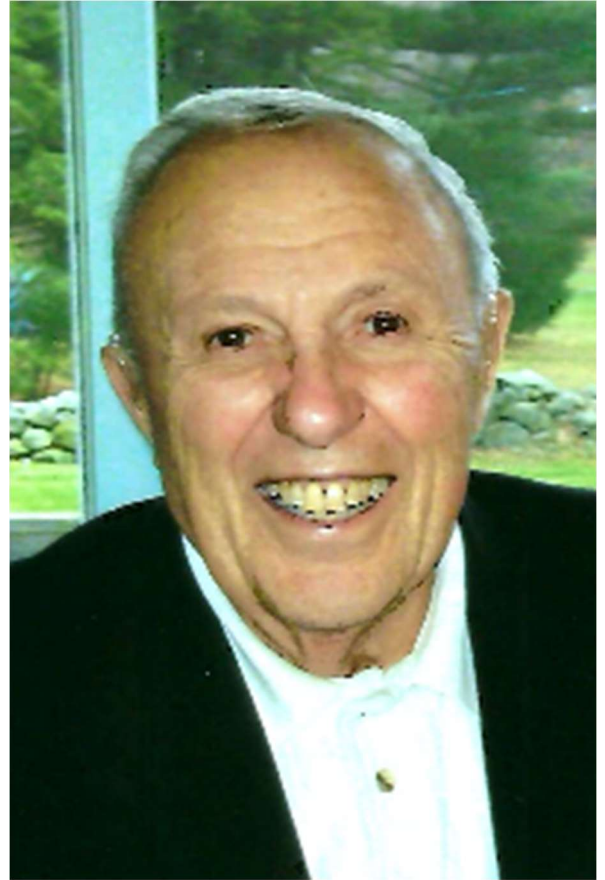
BOB CATALANO

FRANKLIN'S OLDEST WWII VET AND OUR POST'S SENIOR MEMBER

ROBERT R. CATALANO, 101, OF FRANKLIN, DIED ON FEBRUARY 12, 2024, SURROUNDED BY HIS FAMILY IN THE HOME HE HAD LIVED IN FOR HIS ENTIRE LIFE.

HE WAS BORN ON OCTOBER 28, 1922, THE YOUNGEST SON OF FORTUNATO AND PASQUALINA (GROSSO) CATALANO. BOB WAS A LIFELONG FRANKLIN RESIDENT, OTHER THAN HIS TIME IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC DURING WORLD WAR II.

HE WAS A GRADUATE OF FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1940. HE WORKED AS A WELDER AT THE QUINCY SHIPYARD AFTER GRADUATION AND THEN ENLISTED IN THE U.S. NAVY WHERE HE WAS SENT TO THE PACIFIC THEATER AS AN UNDERWATER WELDING SPECIALIST. HE WAS AWARDED THE WORLD WAR II VICTORY MEDAL, THE AMERICAN THEATER METAL, THE ASIATIC-PACIFIC MEDAL, THE PHILIPPINE LIBERATION MEDAL AND THE UNIT #2205 COMMENDATION. HE WAS HONORABLY DISCHARGED FROM THE NAVY IN 1946.



BOB WAS A LIFELONG COMMUNICANT OF ST. MARY'S PARISH IN FRANKLIN, WHERE HE SERVED AS THE HEAD USHER FOR 40 YEARS, FINALLY RETIRING AT AGE 97.

BOB WAS A PROUD LIFETIME MEMBER OF THE FRANKLIN V.F.W. Post 3402, THE FRANKLIN AMERICAN LEGION Post 75, AND WAS A FOURTH DEGREE KNIGHT OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS. BOB WAS A FORMER TWO TERM TOWN COUNCILOR. THERE WAS A LARGE CROWD FOR BOB'S FUNERAL AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH. HE WAS BURIED WITH FULL MILITARY HONORS, RENDERED BY YOUR POST AT ST. MARY'S CEMETERY.

BOBBY ALWAYS HAD A SMILE ON HIS FACE. WE MISS YOU, BOBBY.

COLOR GUARD AT THE ANNUAL "HOMES FOR TROOPS" FUNDRAISER

YOUR POST WAS ONCE AGAIN REQUESTED TO PROVIDE A COLOR GUARD FOR THE ANNUAL "HOMES FOR TROOPS" FUNDRAISING GOLF OUTING AT THE FRANKLIN COUNTRY CLUB ON AUGUST 5TH. WITH OVER 100 GOLFERS PARTICIPATING, THIS ORGANIZATION RAISES FUNDS AND PROVIDES HOMES FOR DISABLED TROOPS. TWO OF THE RECIPIENTS OF THESE HOMES WERE PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY THIS YEAR. THE COLOR GUARD CONSISTED OF JOHN MILOT, JOE LANDRY, PAT DOYLE, DAWN ANDERSON, AND DICK HYNES. THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING THIS SERVICE TO A GREAT CAUSE.



REGULAR POST MEETINGS

POST MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:00 PM AT THE FRANKLIN T.V. STATION AT 23 HUTCHINSON STREET. (THE OLD TURCO AND PISANO MARKET!) IT IS A BEAUTIFUL FACILITY. WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU THERE.

NEWSLETTER & EMAIL CONTACTS:

**DICK HYNES, COMMANDER 508-735-5509
JOHN HEFELE, JR. VICE COMMANDER 508-528-7578
JOE LANDRY, ADJUTANT. 508-725-7693**