VETERAN’S DAY
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

John D. Alley
Marines 1st Division
COE 2nd Light Infantry
Battalion 7th Marine Corp
Spec4 John L. Woodward
U.S. Army during the Vietnam War,
Stationed in Germany as a medic,
1969-71

Robert D. Frazier
U.S. Navy Aviator

Surfman Elmer Alley
U.S. Navy, Korean War
1951-1953

Surfman Dick E. Alley
U.S. Coast Guard
1918-1926

Sidney U. Merchant, Sr.
Army PFC, Korean War
1953-1955

John B. Allen
Marines 1st Division
COE 2nd Light Infantry
Battalion 7th Marine Corp

Robert Charles Carter
U.S. Army Paramedic in Germany
June 1961-June 1964.

Wayne E. Fraser

Peter Irving, of Northfield, Maine,
who served in the US Navy from
1964 through 1968, having seen
combat during two tours of the
Vietnam War.

Andrew Atkinson U.S. Navy and
David Barker U.S. Air Force

Wayne A. Peters
U.S. Navy

Arthur R. Pinkham
U.S. Army – Sergeant
WW II, Germany 1945–1948
Korea 1950-1951

Julian A. Hayward
WWII Combat Veteran
808th Field Artillery BN
Feb. 1943 - March 1946

Sgt(t) Alvin N. Hall - USAR-ARTY -
Korean conflict, Feb ‘51 to Feb ‘53
US Army 47th Infantry Division,
Camp Rucker, Alabama

Robert Irving, of Newport, Maine,
who served in the US Navy from
1952-1954

Bert Merchant Sr.
U.S. Army, 101st Airborne
Vietnam Veteran, 1964-1966

Don Paul Berg
1973

Glen Dinsmore
Navy 1950-1954

Carroll West
Coast Guard 1956-1960

Glenock Boudreau
U.S. Army

Wayne Tinker
Vietnam Era
U.S. Coast Guard
1972-1976

Charles H. Boudreau
US Army

Don Paul Berg
1973

Ronald Ellmer Alley
U.S. Coast Guard
1918-1926

Carroll West
Coast Guard 1956-1960

PFC Hiram W. Alley
U.S. Army, WWII

Richard Hobart
Army 1956-1959

Carroll West
Coast Guard 1956-1960

Lt. Col. Constance Rohret of
Cutler who served in the USAF
from 1978 through 1998, being a
veteran of Desert Storm and
having worked at NORAD and
U.S. Space Command prior to
serving at the Pentagon with the
Department of Defense, working
with Secretaries Colin Powell,
Caspar Weinberger and Dick
Cheney, among others.

Lt. Col. Constance Rohret of
Cutler who served in the USAF
from 1978 through 1998, being a
veteran of Desert Storm and
having worked at NORAD and
U.S. Space Command prior to
serving at the Pentagon with the
Department of Defense, working
with Secretaries Colin Powell,
Caspar Weinberger and Dick
Cheney, among others.
Clifton Hartry Alley
U.S. Coast Guard

Dwight Whitney, Sr.
U.S. Navy, WWII

Bob Kild
U.S. Navy "Spook" (CT3)
1965-1968
Served next to the Iron Curtain in Todendorf, West Germany on the northern shore of the Baltic Sea during the Vietnam War and the Cold War.

Clifford L. Love
U.S. Army, Vietnam

Richard Purington
U.S. Navy "Spook" (CT3)
1965-1968
Served next to the Iron Curtain in Todendorf, West Germany on the northern shore of the Baltic Sea during the Vietnam War and the Cold War.

Reginald Carl Johnson
U.S. Navy

Surfman Esten L. Beal, Jr.
Coast Guard World War II

Abel C. Beal
U.S. Navy

Clifford L. Love
U.S. Army, Vietnam

Sgt. Wayne Johnson
U.S. Army
Iraq War

Richard Dearing
U.S. Army

Surfman Esten L. Beal, Jr.
Coast Guard World War II

Joshua Thomas Wilson
U.S. Army
E-4 (Specialist) Team Leader, MOS 11B

J. Royl Love
U.S. Army, Vietnam

Sgt. Wayne Johnson
U.S. Army
Iraq War

Joshua Dearing
U.S. Army

Ray L. Love
U.S. Army, Vietnam

SGT Oscar Wallace, Jr.
US Army - WWII
1943-1946

Millard L. Alley
U.S. Army
Technician 5th Grade
1941-1945, WWII

Sewell Steele
U.S. Army, WWI
Fought in the trenches of France

Lawrence Linwood McManus
enlisted into the Marine Corps in 1977, served six years then re-enlisted into the Army National Guard where he served 14 years. He did two combat tours — one to Kandahar, Afghanistan then again to Baghdad, Iraq. He retired with 30 years of honorable service. I am very proud of my husband, he is my hero. - Dawn McManus

Dwight Whitney, Jr.
U.S. Army, Vietnam

Sewell Steele
U.S. Army, WWI
Fought in the trenches of France

Major J. Mattison Craighead
U.S. Army

Leeman Faulkingham, Jr.
U.S. Army
1965-1967, Vietnam

W.E Sturgis
U.S. Army

Leeman Faulkingham, Jr.
U.S. Army
1965-1967, Vietnam

Sewell Steele
U.S. Army, WWI
Fought in the trenches of France

Three generations - 1LT (MSG) Peter Duston, US Army retired still serving as an honor guard bugler, daughter SSG Erika Yates, flight paramedic with the 126th Aviation, Maine Army National Guard and grandson, SA Savage Bloomer, Jet Mechanic with the 101st Air Refueling Wing, Maine Air National Guard.

Charles W. Lute
U.S. Army, Vietnam

Lt. Col. Charles W. Lute
U.S. Army

Collin L. Lute
U.S. Army, Vietnam

Fred Lute
U.S. Army

Lawrence Linwood McManus
enlisted into the Marine Corps in 1977, served six years then re-enlisted into the Army National Guard where he served 14 years. He did two combat tours — one to Kandahar, Afghanistan then again to Baghdad, Iraq. He retired with 30 years of honorable service. I am very proud of my husband, he is my hero. - Dawn McManus

G. William Luce
U.S. Army, Vietnam

Collin L. Lute
U.S. Army, Vietnam

Fred Lute
U.S. Army

Lawrence Linwood McManus
enlisted into the Marine Corps in 1977, served six years then re-enlisted into the Army National Guard where he served 14 years. He did two combat tours — one to Kandahar, Afghanistan then again to Baghdad, Iraq. He retired with 30 years of honorable service. I am very proud of my husband, he is my hero. - Dawn McManus

Dwight Whitney, Jr.
U.S. Army, Vietnam

Sewell Steele
U.S. Army, WWI
Fought in the trenches of France

Major J. Mattison Craighead
U.S. Army

Leeman Faulkingham, Jr.
U.S. Army
1965-1967, Vietnam

W.E Sturgis
U.S. Army

Leeman Faulkingham, Jr.
U.S. Army
1965-1967, Vietnam

Sewell Steele
U.S. Army, WWI
Fought in the trenches of France

Three generations - 1LT (MSG) Peter Duston, US Army retired still serving as an honor guard bugler, daughter SSG Erika Yates, flight paramedic with the 126th Aviation, Maine Army National Guard and grandson, SA Savage Bloomer, Jet Mechanic with the 101st Air Refueling Wing, Maine Air National Guard.

Charles W. Lute
U.S. Army, Vietnam

Collin L. Lute
U.S. Army, Vietnam

Fred Lute
U.S. Army

Lawrence Linwood McManus
enlisted into the Marine Corps in 1977, served six years then re-enlisted into the Army National Guard where he served 14 years. He did two combat tours — one to Kandahar, Afghanistan then again to Baghdad, Iraq. He retired with 30 years of honorable service. I am very proud of my husband, he is my hero. - Dawn McManus

G. William Luce
U.S. Army, Vietnam

Collin L. Lute
U.S. Army, Vietnam

Fred Lute
U.S. Army

Lawrence Linwood McManus
enlisted into the Marine Corps in 1977, served six years then re-enlisted into the Army National Guard where he served 14 years. He did two combat tours — one to Kandahar, Afghanistan then again to Baghdad, Iraq. He retired with 30 years of honorable service. I am very proud of my husband, he is my hero. - Dawn McManus

Dwight Whitney, Jr.
U.S. Army, Vietnam

Sewell Steele
U.S. Army, WWI
Fought in the trenches of France

Major J. Mattison Craighead
U.S. Army

Leeman Faulkingham, Jr.
U.S. Army
1965-1967, Vietnam

W.E Sturgis
U.S. Army

Leeman Faulkingham, Jr.
U.S. Army
1965-1967, Vietnam

Sewell Steele
U.S. Army, WWI
Fought in the trenches of France

Three generations - 1LT (MSG) Peter Duston, US Army retired still serving as an honor guard bugler, daughter SSG Erika Yates, flight paramedic with the 126th Aviation, Maine Army National Guard and grandson, SA Savage Bloomer, Jet Mechanic with the 101st Air Refueling Wing, Maine Air National Guard.

Charles W. Lute
U.S. Army, Vietnam

Collin L. Lute
U.S. Army, Vietnam

Fred Lute
U.S. Army

Lawrence Linwood McManus
enlisted into the Marine Corps in 1977, served six years then re-enlisted into the Army National Guard where he served 14 years. He did two combat tours — one to Kandahar, Afghanistan then again to Baghdad, Iraq. He retired with 30 years of honorable service. I am very proud of my husband, he is my hero. - Dawn McManus

G. William Luce
U.S. Army, Vietnam

Collin L. Lute
U.S. Army, Vietnam

Fred Lute
U.S. Army

Lawrence Linwood McManus
enlisted into the Marine Corps in 1977, served six years then re-enlisted into the Army National Guard where he served 14 years. He did two combat tours — one to Kandahar, Afghanistan then again to Baghdad, Iraq. He retired with 30 years of honorable service. I am very proud of my husband, he is my hero. - Dawn McManus

Dwight Whitney, Jr.
U.S. Army, Vietnam

Sewell Steele
U.S. Army, WWI
Fought in the trenches of France

Major J. Mattison Craighead
U.S. Army

Leeman Faulkingham, Jr.
U.S. Army
1965-1967, Vietnam

W.E Sturgis
U.S. Army

Leeman Faulkingham, Jr.
U.S. Army
1965-1967, Vietnam

Sewell Steele
U.S. Army, WWI
Fought in the trenches of France

Three generations - 1LT (MSG) Peter Duston, US Army retired still serving as an honor guard bugler, daughter SSG Erika Yates, flight paramedic with the 126th Aviation, Maine Army National Guard and grandson, SA Savage Bloomer, Jet Mechanic with the 101st Air Refueling Wing, Maine Air National Guard.

Charles W. Lute
U.S. Army, Vietnam

Collin L. Lute
U.S. Army, Vietnam

Fred Lute
U.S. Army

Lawrence Linwood McManus
enlisted into the Marine Corps in 1977, served six years then re-enlisted into the Army National Guard where he served 14 years. He did two combat tours — one to Kandahar, Afghanistan then again to Baghdad, Iraq. He retired with 30 years of honorable service. I am very proud of my husband, he is my hero. - Dawn McManus

G. William Luce
U.S. Army, Vietnam

Collin L. Lute
U.S. Army, Vietnam

Fred Lute
U.S. Army

Lawrence Linwood McManus
enlisted into the Marine Corps in 1977, served six years then re-enlisted into the Army National Guard where he served 14 years. He did two combat tours — one to Kandahar, Afghanistan then again to Baghdad, Iraq. He retired with 30 years of honorable service. I am very proud of my husband, he is my hero. - Dawn McManus

Dwight Whitney, Jr.
U.S. Army, Vietnam

Sewell Steele
U.S. Army, WWI
Fought in the trenches of France

Major J. Mattison Craighead
U.S. Army

Leeman Faulkingham, Jr.
U.S. Army
1965-1967, Vietnam

W.E Sturgis
U.S. Army

Leeman Faulkingham, Jr.
U.S. Army
1965-1967, Vietnam

Sewell Steele
U.S. Army, WWI
Fought in the trenches of France

Three generations - 1LT (MSG) Peter Duston, US Army retired still serving as an honor guard bugler, daughter SSG Erika Yates, flight paramedic with the 126th Aviation, Maine Army National Guard and grandson, SA Savage Bloomer, Jet Mechanic with the 101st Air Refueling Wing, Maine Air National Guard.
Imagine what our world would be without the sacrifices made by the men and women of the armed services of the GREAT UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

We all owe them for the freedoms and way of life we often take for granted.

AC Inc and its employees are saying

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE
Imagine what our world would be without the sacrifices made by the men and women of the armed services of the GREAT UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. We all owe them for the freedoms and way of life we often take for granted.

AC Inc and its employees are saying THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

November 9, 2022  -  MACHIAS V ALLEY NEWS OBSERVER  23

Orlando Chief King
US Navy, WWII, Vietnam War, Korean War
1942-1964

Lawrence Tyler
US Army, WWII
1943-1945

Robert Morris
US Navy Peacetime, Gulf War
1976-1984

Chief Leonard W. Johnson III
US NAVY

Spc Donald Landry
U.S. Army

Ronald Hall
US Coast Guard
Korean War
1953-1976

Muriel Stehl
US Navy, WWII
1945-1946

Keith Smith
US Army, Korean War
1953-1955

Leslie Faulkvingham
U.S. Army, WWII

Don Green
U.S. Navy and Seabees

Lawrence Tyler
US Army, WWII
1943-1945

Robert Morris
US Navy Peacetime, Gulf War
1976-1984

Chief Leonard W. Johnson III
US NAVY

Spc Donald Landry
U.S. Army

Ronald Hall
US Coast Guard
Korean War
1953-1976

Muriel Stehl
US Navy, WWII
1945-1946

Keith Smith
US Army, Korean War
1953-1955

Leslie Faulkvingham
U.S. Army, WWII

Don Green
U.S. Navy and Seabees

Jay Baldwin Hinson
Army Signal Corp, Aleutian Islands
1942 - 1945
Former Publisher/ Editor
Machias Valley News Observer
and the Calais Advertiser.

Surfman Archie Alley
U.S. Coast Guard
World War I
1917-1918

Francis “Mack” McKean
U.S. Navy, WWII

LAND of the FREE because our daughter is BRAVE. PV2 Olivia Francis Perkins, daughter of Beverly and retired U.S. Army SFC Michael Perkins graduated BCT at Fort Leonard Wood and is attending the second phase of her military training.

Bert Phipps
U.S. Army
1958-1961

Surfman Archie Alley
U.S. Coast Guard
World War I
1917-1918

Francis “Mack” McKean
U.S. Navy, WWII

LAND of the FREE because our daughter is BRAVE. PV2 Olivia Francis Perkins, daughter of Beverly and retired U.S. Army SFC Michael Perkins graduated BCT at Fort Leonard Wood and is attending the second phase of her military training.

Lewis F. Kirby,
Member of The Hat and Ring Squadron
Army Air Corp and USAF, Major,
retired
1942-1965

Dennis W. Boyd
MM1
20 years Retired Navy

Chip Pollard
Army, 1966-1968

Travis E. Beal
U. S. Air Force
Senior Airman
1988-1991

Stanley C. Beal
U.S. Air Force, Airman First Class
1953-1957

William Morrell Merchant
U.S. Army, WWII

James Scholl, U.S. Army
Vietnam 1967-1969
Generator Operator and Door Gunner

Robert W. Alley, Sr.
U.S. Navy
1966-1995

LtCol Jerrold Erdman; USAF Retired
26+ years active duty (1965-1969; enlisted/1973-1996; officer)
Navigator/Electronic Warfare Officer
Aircraft: AC-130H, DC-130E: RC-135V/W

LtCol Jerrold Erdman; USAF Retired
26+ years active duty (1965-1969; enlisted/1973-1996; officer)
Navigator/Electronic Warfare Officer
Aircraft: AC-130H, DC-130E: RC-135V/W
Rose M. Gaffney Elementary Teacher Kelly Woodward, veteran of the US Coast Guard.

Richard Snow Pettegrow
U.S. Army

Joseph P. Waeg, Jr.
Sergeant, U.S. Army, WWII
sergeant in the Army Air Force
during World War II. Served four
years in the South Pacific.
Received four battle stars.

Lt. J. G. Maxwell
U.S. Coast Guard

Ruben Huntley
U.S. Army 1946-1968

Richard Grant
US Army, WWII
1946-1947

Sgt. Leighton Grant
United States Marine Corp.
Columbia Falls, Maine
WW 2 (1942-45)

Chief (Ruth) Fenton and Chief (Dana) Fenton, United
States Coast Guard, Retired

William R. Hooper Sr.
U.S. Army, Korean War

En 2 Elliott M. Tarbell
U.S. Navy 1951-1955
Served on U.S.S. Barton DD-722
during the Korean War

Joseph P. Waag, Jr.
Sergeant, U.S. Army, WWII

sergeant in the Army Air Force
during World War II, Served four
years in the South Pacific.
Received four battle stars.

Henry Stence
U.S. Navy, Vietnam War
1972-1976

Mariner N. Bunker
U.S. Navy AO3
1967-1970, Vietnam War

Vincent Reed
U.S. Navy 1984-1988

Richard Snow Pettegrow
U.S. Army

Hugh Raymond Hurlbert.
Korean War
1950-1952
Private first class.

Bertram Merchant
U.S. Marine Corps

Horace L. Grant
U.S. Navy Officer WWII
Marconi Wireless Station
Wellfleet, Massachusetts

En 2 Elliott M. Tarbell
U.S. Navy 1951-1955
Served on U.S.S. Barton DD-722
during the Korean War

Li. J. G. Maxwell
U.S. Coast Guard

Hugh Raymond Hurlbert.
Korean War
1950-1952
Private first class.

Mariner N. Bunker
U.S. Navy AO3
1967-1970, Vietnam War

Vincent Reed
U.S. Navy 1984-1988

Richard Snow Pettegrow
U.S. Army

Hugh Raymond Hurlbert.
Korean War
1950-1952
Private first class.

Bertram Merchant
U.S. Marine Corps

Horace L. Grant
U.S. Navy Officer WWII
Marconi Wireless Station
Wellfleet, Massachusetts

Harry Crawford
U.S. Air Force

Vincent Reed
U.S. Navy 1984-1988

Richard Snow Pettegrow
U.S. Army

Hugh Raymond Hurlbert.
Korean War
1950-1952
Private first class.

Bertram Merchant
U.S. Marine Corps

Horace L. Grant
U.S. Navy Officer WWII
Marconi Wireless Station
Wellfleet, Massachusetts

Harry Crawford
U.S. Air Force

Vincent Reed
U.S. Navy 1984-1988

Richard Snow Pettegrow
U.S. Army

Hugh Raymond Hurlbert.
Korean War
1950-1952
Private first class.

Bertram Merchant
U.S. Marine Corps

Horace L. Grant
U.S. Navy Officer WWII
Marconi Wireless Station
Wellfleet, Massachusetts

Harry Crawford
U.S. Air Force

Vincent Reed
U.S. Navy 1984-1988

Richard Snow Pettegrow
U.S. Army

Hugh Raymond Hurlbert.
Korean War
1950-1952
Private first class.

Bertram Merchant
U.S. Marine Corps

Horace L. Grant
U.S. Navy Officer WWII
Marconi Wireless Station
Wellfleet, Massachusetts

Harry Crawford
U.S. Air Force

Vincent Reed
U.S. Navy 1984-1988

Richard Snow Pettegrow
U.S. Army

Hugh Raymond Hurlbert.
Korean War
1950-1952
Private first class.

Bertram Merchant
U.S. Marine Corps

Horace L. Grant
U.S. Navy Officer WWII
Marconi Wireless Station
Wellfleet, Massachusetts

Henry Stence
U.S. Navy, Vietnam War
1972-1976

Mariner N. Bunker
U.S. Navy AO3
1967-1970, Vietnam War

Vincent Reed
U.S. Navy 1984-1988

Richard Snow Pettegrow
U.S. Army

Hugh Raymond Hurlbert.
Korean War
1950-1952
Private first class.

Bertram Merchant
U.S. Marine Corps

Horace L. Grant
U.S. Navy Officer WWII
Marconi Wireless Station
Wellfleet, Massachusetts

Henry Stence
U.S. Navy, Vietnam War
1972-1976

Mariner N. Bunker
U.S. Navy AO3
1967-1970, Vietnam War

Vincent Reed
U.S. Navy 1984-1988

Richard Snow Pettegrow
U.S. Army

Hugh Raymond Hurlbert.
Korean War
1950-1952
Private first class.

Bertram Merchant
U.S. Marine Corps

Horace L. Grant
U.S. Navy Officer WWII
Marconi Wireless Station
Wellfleet, Massachusetts

Richard Grant
U.S. Air Force from 1997 to 2000
as an occupational therapist
United States Army Reserves
from 1998 to 1997 as a licensed
practical nurse and United States
Army from 1983 to 1989 as a
licensed practical nurse and
medic

First Lieutenant Robert Dalby
Grant, of Columbia Falls, is
shown in the middle along with
his flight crew, in front of the
C-47 that he piloted over the
Himalayas from India into China
and Burma during WWII. He was
a recipient of the Distinguished
Flying Cross.
Warren Gay  
U.S. Air Force Tech Sergeant  
20 years including three tours in Vietnam

William Fraser  
SS4  
1967-1969  
Vietnam War

Willard M. Kelley  
U.S. Army, Tec5, WWII  
1943-1945

Captain Frank Hallassey  
U.S. Marine Corps  
Served in Vietnam, earned Purple Heart for wounds

Neal R. Woodward, Sr  
Served in the U.S. Navy during WWII

Sidney Mitchell  
Received a purple heart for service during WWII

Joseph Chorzynski  
US Army Spec. 5  
Cuban Crisis

Randy Blackwood  
Coast Guard  
1972-1976

Eric M. Hatt  
US Marine Corps  
World War II Veteran

Spec4 Neal R. Woodward, Jr  
U.S. Army during the Vietnam War  
1966-68 in hand-to-hand combat.

Donald L. Garnett, Sr  
US Army  
Korean War Veteran

Harlan H Gardiner  
Staff Sgt, USMC  
Served in the Pacific during WWII as tail gunner/radioman on a torpedo bomber.

Richard Bailey  
U.S. Army  
June 1953-May 1955

Calvert "Cal" Carver  
US Navy  
Korean Conflict

Donal L. Garnett, Sr  
US Army  
Korean War Veteran

Gregory Stephen Schors  
United States Army  
101st Airborne  
Vietnam

Jessica Thimlar, U.S. Army in Kuwait with the 112th Medical out of Bangor 2003, taking a break with R. Lee Emery.

Specialist Beverly Thimlar  
U.S. Army Medic, Woman's Army Corps

David J. Roth  
U.S. Air Force Major  
2010 to present

Holly A. Anthony, TM2 – E5, Retired - from Lubec, resides in Missouri

BORDER ELECTRIC INC.  
Kohler Emergency Stand-By  
Generators Sales & Service

Honor our Nation’s Veterans Nov. 11

★ 337 North Street, Calais • 207.454.8619 • beinc@gwi.net / www.borderelectricinc.com ★
Richard A. Trahan 1932-1992
U.S. Navy, Korean War, USS Missouri

Leon Holmes Jr.
U.S. Army WWII 1946-1949
Korean Conflict 1951-1953

PFC Merton W. Anthony,
US Army, South Pacific,
Guadalcanal

Capt. Robert J. Kennedy
U.S. Army / U.S. Air Force

Leander K. Lock
Captain, WW II
Lieutenant, WW II

Ellis Small AT1
U.S. Navy 1951-1955
Aviation Technician First Class
VP-T ASW Squadron at Quonset Point, RI
Six-month deployment to Korean Zone 1953
Six-month deployment to Mediterranean Zone 1955

Bruce Benson
U.S. Navy 1960-1963

PFC Merton W. Anthony,
US Army, South Pacific,
Guadalcanal

Ernest MacLauchlan
Interior Communications Chief,
USN, Retired
1966-1988

Charles E. Bodman, Jr., 1924-1996
Lieutenant, United States Army Air Forces
Native of Lubec, Maine, and long-time Machias resident
Proudly remembered with love,
Wife, Gloria B. Bodman, Beaverton, Oregon
Daughter, Lynne Bodman Storms, Phoenix, Arizona
Son, David Randall-Bodman, Portland, Oregon

Thomas Johnson
U.S. Air Force, seen here in Honduras
Vietnam era

Capt. Robert J. Kennedy
U.S. Army / U.S. Air Force

Leander K. Lock
Captain, WW II
Lieutenant, WW II

Ellis Small AT1
U.S. Navy 1951-1955
Aviation Technician First Class
VP-T ASW Squadron at Quonset Point, RI
Six-month deployment to Korean Zone 1953
Six-month deployment to Mediterranean Zone 1955

Leander K. Lock
Captain, WW II
Lieutenant, WW II

Ellis Small AT1
U.S. Navy 1951-1955
Aviation Technician First Class
VP-T ASW Squadron at Quonset Point, RI
Six-month deployment to Korean Zone 1953
Six-month deployment to Mediterranean Zone 1955

Ellis Small AT1
U.S. Navy 1951-1955
Aviation Technician First Class
VP-T ASW Squadron at Quonset Point, RI
Six-month deployment to Korean Zone 1953
Six-month deployment to Mediterranean Zone 1955

Veterans Day
To our men and women in uniform, past, present and future
Thank you

One College Drive, Calais, ME 04619 • 207-454-1000
Facebook.com/discoverwccc • WCCC.ME.EDU
Mainers support drug treatment programs over incarceration, statewide survey finds

by Evan Popp, Maine Beacon

As the opioid epidemic continues to grip Maine, a survey released in September shows that Mainers support prioritizing treatment for people who use drugs over punishment and incarceration, which advocates and medical experts have long argued doesn’t work.

The survey, developed by University of Maine professors Robert Glover and Karyn Sporer and put into the field in the summer of 2021, found that 74 percent of people support decriminalizing drugs by diverting people with substance use disorder out of the criminal justice system for low-level, non-violent offenses and toward community-based programs that aid with recovery. Support was seen regardless of party affiliation in the survey.

The poll was administered online to 417 Mainers across demographic lines from July to August of 2021. The margin of error is 4.8 percent, with a 95 percent confidence level.

The findings — which are the first-ever comprehensive survey of Mainers’ views on drug policy — comes as the state continues to struggle with the overdose epidemic. Maine experienced a record number of overdose deaths in 2021 — 636 — and is on pace to surpass that number by the end of this year, according to data from the first five months of 2022.

Given that situation, advocates have continued to argue that the decades-long “War on Drugs” strategy of incarcerating people who use substances clearly hasn’t worked and has resulted in deaths that could have been avoided. In a direct challenge to that punitive approach, the Maine recovery community in 2021 advanced LD 967, a bill to decriminalize drugs and focus instead on treatment programs. The measure passed the House but died in the state Senate amid opposition from Republicans and some Democrats, including Gov. Janet Mills. As seen by the survey, though, a strong majority of Mainers support diverting people who use drugs away from the criminal justice system, as called for by LD 967.

In 2022, the recovery community continued to propose reforms and succeeded in pushing a bill through the legislature that strengthened the state’s “Good Samaritan law,” which provides protections for people at the scene of an overdose. After some negotiations, Mills signed the bill into law.

Along with an overall emphasis on recovery, the UMaine professors’ survey also found an overwhelming majority of Mainers support funding easy-to-access detox services in every county (84 percent), reducing barriers to accessing substance use treatment (84 percent), establishing medication-assisted treatment in every county (77 percent), expanding access to case management services (84 percent), and funding local recovery community centers (84 percent).

There was also strong support (73 percent) for ensuring that people in jails and prisons still have access to treatment for substance use disorder.

Researchers said the results of the survey show Mainers are ready for a different approach to drug use. “We saw really striking support for alternatives to criminalization,” Glover said during a press conference Tuesday in which he and Sporer presented their findings.

“Mainers, regardless of political affiliation, education, employment, religion — all of those demographics — they want a new drug policy approach. It’s very clear in the data,” Sporer added.

Glover and Sporer noted that despite this strong support, policymakers in Maine have often lagged behind public opinion on drugs, with Glover noting the Mills administration’s opposition to the drug decriminalization bill in 2021. Mills’ opponent in the upcoming November election, former Gov. Paul LePage, took an even harder stance on drugs during his time in office, vetoing an array of bills related to substance use disorder.

“Mainers by and large, with some notable exceptions, would support a broad suite of reforms that move away from the criminalizing approach,” Glover said.

Glover also noted that other places, such as Oregon, have decriminalized small amounts of drugs through referendum rather than via the legislature, a strategy that could potentially find support in Maine, given the results of the survey.

Support for some policies, hesitancy about others

Further questions asked about Mainers’ opinions on harm reduction strategies. The poll found that a strong majority of people in the state (76 percent) support combating the opioid epidemic through broad distribution of overdose reversals such as Narcan. A plurality (49 percent) also back funding syringe exchange in every county in Maine, with a little over 30 percent opposing such a policy.

However, just under half of the survey respondents said they would oppose safer drug consumption sites in major metropolitan areas in Maine. Such sites, which have been shown to save lives, are designated areas where people can use pre-approved drugs under medical supervision. A little under a third of people said they would support safer consumption sites in cities in Maine, and nearly 20 percent were neutral on the question.

Still, Glover said support for a treatment-based approach to drug use has grown steadily over the years, raising the possibility that safe consumption sites could increase in popularity as the public learns more about them.

“I think that is the next horizon,” he said of such sites. “Thirty-two percent of our respondents supporting safer consumption sites is actually pretty striking,” Glover added. “If we were to ask this question 10 years ago, it probably would have been a lot less. So I think what we see is that as exposure to the crisis increases, as education and understanding increases, we’ll continue to see these shifts in public attitudes.”

Additional questions found a majority of Mainers (59 percent) back strengthening the social safety net to address root causes of substance use disorder; support requiring the collection of information on race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status for interactions between law enforcement and the public (83 percent); and want to expand non-discrimination policies to include people with substance use disorder (57 percent).

Survey includes interview portion

Along with the polling, the survey by Glover and Sporer also contained “in-depth semi-structured interviews with 30 policymakers, treatment providers, and impacted community members.”

From the interviews, Sporer said researchers discovered that the primary reasons for the shift in public support toward treatment are education about substance use, personal exposure to the issue, and an acknowledgment that there are multiple pathways to recovery.

In the survey, one respondent — identified as Gina, a 61-year-old Republican consultant — told researchers that she used to believe in a tough-on-crime response to drugs but eventually changed her mind after hearing from a medical expert who talked about how substance use disorder is a health issue.

“He helped turn my mind from criminal justice, it’s a crime, we have to punish them, they’re bad people to no, this is a disease where we have to help these people,” Gina said in the survey.

Another respondent, identified as Patrick — a 63-year-old medical doctor and a Democrat who was witnessing the toll of the opioid epidemic has spurred him to support all forms of harm reduction, including safe consumption sites.

“The kids that my kids grew up with in a very small school system, each of them has several classmates who are dead, as a result of this,” he said in the survey. “Either overdose, suicide, homicide, drug-related car accidents, things like that. That’s emotionally very impactful.”

This story is shared with permission of the Maine Beacon.