

February, 2012

William J. Rogers Post responds to Governors proclamation



Left to right front row: George Bernier, Hugh Brown Commander, Paul Bernard Public Relations Officer. Back row: Dan St. Pierre Service Officer, Jerry DeWitt , past Commander VFW Post 9150, Vista Volunteer Sponsored by Tri-County Mental Health, Ed Stanhope Service Officer DAV Chapter 11, Rich Hatch Maine National Guard DAV Chapter 11 member.

Auburn – As part of his administration’s ongoing effort to thank and assist Maine’s service members, veterans and their families, Gov. Paul LePage proclaimed Saturday, Feb. 25, as “Maine Veterans Stand Up and Be Counted Day.”

The American Legion William J. Rogers Post 153 responded and opened its doors from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and provided assistance to veterans who may qualify for health care benefits, educational, burial, memorial or other services they may be entitled to receive.

“There are approximately 140,000 veterans in Maine who served and sacrificed a great deal to protect our freedoms and too few have applied for benefits stated Commander Hugh Brown.

“It is estimated that only 30 percent of retired military personnel have applied for the veteran’s benefits provided by the State and Federal government. In the case of Maine’s roughly 10,000 women who have served, the numbers are more discouraging — with just 10 percent having applied. With regard to State and Federal educational benefits available to Maine veterans, it is estimated that only 2 percent have applied and that’s why events like these are of high priority” stated Service Officer Dan St. Pierre.

Jerry DeWitt was instrumental in organizing “Maine Veterans Stand Up and Be Counted Day”,

DeWitt had notified all Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and Disabled American Veterans post and encouraged them to assist veterans and their families by reminding them that educational benefits and other assistance may be available.

“29 veterans came to the William J. Rogers post and they varied from serving in World War II to today’s present conflicts. If all other locations received the same turnout we reached a lot of veterans today stated Public Relations Officer Paul Bernard. Bernard also said; “Don’t be discouraged if you were unable to make it. You can still contact Maine’s Bureau of Veterans’ Services to learn more. Information is available at www.maine.gov/dvem/bvs, by e-mail to mainebvs@maine.gov or by calling 207- 430-6035.

Anyone interested in membership to the American Legion can contact Commander Hugh Brown at 782-1118