

## **Belmont Post 58 receives Department Commander's Post of Excellence Award**

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### **High honor:**

Post 58 was recognized at a ceremony earlier this month.

### **By DAN SEUFERT**

Union Leader Correspondent

**BELMONT** — For its energetic support of its community, the local American Legion chapter has been awarded one of the highest honors given to local Legion organizations — the Department Commander's Post of Excellence Award. Given by the American Legion Department of New Hampshire, the award is given to a post that achieves excellence in four areas: membership, youth activities, community service and support to currently serving troops or veterans, according to state Legion officials.

The award acknowledges membership growth, exposure of American Legion values to the youth of the community, and increased visibility of the American Legion Family through service projects.

Belmont's Post 58 was recognized at a ceremony earlier this month. Woodbury P. Fogg, the post's adjutant and finance officer, said post members felt honored.

"(Post 58) has worked hard to grow and do even more to support the community, and charitable organizations, veterans and service members," Fogg said.

Tom Wiley, department commander of the state's Legion group, said the Belmont post does "remarkable" work, especially for a post that has no "post home." Members meet in the town's senior center instead.

"It's really a remarkable post; they do tremendous work for their community, especially for a non-post home," Wiley said. "It's a pleasure just to visit them and see what they're doing."

Among their many activities, post members have been raising funds by selling T-shirts embroidered with the phrase "These Colors Don't Run," as well as by selling military bracelets, puzzles, Kettle Korn, sodas and pizza at Old Home Day in the summer.

Before and after Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Old Home Day, they raffle off prizes donated by local businesses. They have also received donations for the poppies, handmade by members and spouses.

The Post of Excellence Award brings the post \$300, which post members promptly added to the funds they donate to many causes, like scholarships and sportsmanship awards for Belmont High School graduating seniors; a cookout at the New Hampton Veterans Home; and donations to the Belmont Police Explorers' Santa's Helper Fund, the Boy Scouts, the Cub Scouts and programs at the senior center.

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American Legion Post 58 Commander Rich Stanley, left, receives the Department of New Hampshire Post of Excellence Award from Department Vice Commander Charlie Arkwell on Dec. 6 at the post's meeting in Belmont. COURTESY