

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

**April 25, 2023**

### **MINUTES**

**Present:** Shawn Talbot (Chair), Jason Somero, Lou Alvarez and Debbie Deaton (Town Administrator)

**Also in attendance:** Melissa Mack, Bentti Hoiska, Jim Coffey, Bob Zinsmeister, Matt Wiecahalek-Seiler

**5:00 Open Meeting** in the Town Office with the Pledge of Allegiance at 5:00

#### **5:05 Hometown Heroes Banners Presentation:**

Shawn introduced Matt Wiecahalek-Seiler and said they were put in touch by Staff Sargent Cooper Wayrenen. Matt stated their goal as an organization is to convince towns to work with them so residents can honor their family and/or friends who have worn the uniform of the United States Military (past or present) by having custom banners made and hung on utility poles, which honor the individual veteran or service member.

Matt went on to discuss the types of banners and pricing. The price for a banner with a single photo is \$225 and two photos is \$295. The banners have a 3 year warranty and are hung from just prior to Memorial Day and just after Veterans Day. The banners are installed, removed, cleaned and preserved each year by Matt's company for the first 3 years. After that, there is a \$25 fee. The banners have a 5-7 year life expectancy.

They are currently working on a design for First Responders as well.

The reason they do the presentation for the Selectboard is because only the Town can get the hanging permit from Eversource to use the poles.

Matt will send a PDF with all of the details to Debbie so it can be posted on the Town website & Facebook page for residents who are interested in purchasing a banner for a loved one or friend.

There was some discussion regarding the area of town to get permits to hang banners. It was decided Main Street along the parade route would be the best starting place. Jason also mentioned it would be nice to have some near the Smithville parade route.

Shawn made a motion to grant access permits for 10 poles on Main Street (Memorial Day parade route). Lou seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### **6:00 Finance Advisory Committee Recommendation:**

Shawn stated Melissa Mack had met with the FAC and they felt Melissa would be a good fit. Lou asked her background. Melissa stated she has a Bachelor's degree in accounting and is the Director of Finance for a local company and is on the School Board Budget Advisory Committee. She has also been the Treasurer for the Little League.

Jason asked how long Melissa has lived in Town. Melissa replied they have been here for 10 years and have children in the school system.

Shawn made a motion to appoint Melissa Mack to the FAC. Jason seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### **6:05 ZBA Recommendation:**

Debbie stated she had looked into Ex-Officios, alternates, etc. on boards. According to the RSA's, alternates cannot be appointed to fill a permanent vacancy, only a temporary vacancy. In addition, alternates cannot ask questions of applicants, participate in discussions or participate in decisions.

If an Ex-Officio is absent from a meeting, an alternate cannot be appointed to fill that temporary vacancy. It can only be filled by a person appointed by the Selectboard.

Shawn mentioned we have discussed the ZBA recommendation to appoint Lou Alvarez as a member previously. Lou asked to continue this discussion later this evening.

#### **6:10 Trustees of the Trust Funds:**

Bentti Hoiska stated we seem to have a “cart before the horse” situation going on. He suggested before decisions are made on expending funds from a trust or reserve, it should be approved by the Trustees of the Trust funds to ensure expenditures will be approved. He suggested items go through the Town Administrator to facilitate this.

Jim said we should look into the definition of Capital Expenditures and limits. A lot of towns have this and New Ipswich should adopt one.

Shawn mentioned the Board had previously requested a list of funds, purposes and agents to expend from the Trustees. Bob said they are working on that.

Bob mentioned he doesn't think the clock face should come out of the Government Building repair fund because it's not a government building. The Town owns the clock but it is housed in a non-town owned building. He suggested using the budget line for payment.

There was also discussion about the generators that were approved by the Selectmen and were advised this will not be approved by the Trustees.

Bob said according to the RSA's, a fund can be created through a warrant article but the words used to create the fund are very important because that will dictate what the fund can be used for. In this case, the fund is considered only for “Building Maintenance and Repair”. The clock face and generators are not buildings.

#### **6:45 Jim Coffey:**

Jim has concerns about several properties in town with trash/vehicles/perpetual yard sales, etc. He stated he has brought this concern to several Selectmen's meeting in years past and nothing has been done about it.

Jason feels neighbors should be able to talk to each other and solve things like this on their own. Jim stated the Selectmen have taken an oath and need to intervene. Jim asked if one of the Board members would take a ride with him to view these properties. Jason volunteered.

Jason added he doesn't feel like the Selectmen should be policing every property in town. Shawn agreed, they don't want to be bossing everyone around and telling people what they can and can't do on their property. Jason said there is a line somewhere. There has to be some level of respect among neighbors.

Jim said Select boards of the past have not done their job by enforcing the Zoning Ordinance when things have been reported to them.

This conversation will be continued in a Non-Public session because names and addresses are involved.

#### **7:00 Non-public RSA 91-A:3, II (c)**

At 7:00 Shawn made a motion to go into non-public session. Jason seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. At 7:45pm, Jason made a motion to return to public session. Shawn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Shawn made a motion to seal the minutes. Jason seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### **7:45 ZBA Recommendation continued:**

Jason said he understands there is nothing illegal about a husband and wife being on a Board but feels appearance-wise it isn't good. Lou said he doesn't feel there is a problem with it. There was more discussion regarding this topic.

Jason made a motion to appoint Lou Alvarez as a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Shawn seconded the motion.

Lou will take a new oath as a member of the ZBA.

**8:35 Old/New Business:**

- Debbie informed the Board she had gone to Southwest Regional Planning Commission in Keene on Friday for the Brownfield Grant Application review for the old highway garage property. Phase 1 of the project has been approved. Debbie will keep the Board in the loop as work progresses.
- Jason said the mechanism of the Town Clock is being worked on by Bruce Aho. He added Ralph Somero used to receive \$100/year for the mechanism maintenance and asked about paying Bruce. Shawn replied this was not budgeted for and should probably come from the newly created Heritage Commission Fund.
- Jason mentioned a Green Center volunteer will be directing traffic on Saturday due to the amount of events going on at the Town Offices on Saturday. (Rabies Clinic 8:30-10, Green Center, Farmers Market).
- Jason asked what the status of the test pits at the Transfer Station. Debbie said she thought Peter had met with Dan Reed. She will follow up on that and let the Board know.
- Jason also asked about the status of the Town owned land (Shaw Farm). Debbie said that had slipped off her radar but will look into it next week.
- Shawn discussed the possibility of doing an employee luncheon on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. This will be discussed again on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

At 9:30, Shawn made a motion to adjourn. Jason seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Deaton  
Town Administrator

**Minutes approved by BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Shawn Talbot, Chairman:



Jason Somero:



Lou Alvarez:



# Concord For Hometown Heroes Banners



**Matthew Wieczhalek-Seiler**

**69 Manchester St. Lot 3**

**Concord, N.H. 03301-5147**

**(603) 219-6792 cell /text/voice**

**mattseiler5757@gmail.com**

**[www.concordforhometownheroesbanners.com](http://www.concordforhometownheroesbanners.com)**

## Our Introduction

*Our goal as an organization is to convince towns, cities, or villages to work with us so that their residents can honor their family and/or friends who have worn the uniform of the United States Military, past or present. Living or deceased we do this by having custom banners made that honor the individual veteran or service member, that we hang on utility poles. Without the town's assistance we can not obtain these permits. This is the minimum required of the town. If the town wants to support us in other ways, we are open to discussing that. Our mission is to give people a method to honor the service of family or friends, **A Tribute With Honor** as we call it.*

*We have a banner design, a printer that makes our banners, a photo restorationist that does all of our photo work and computer work needed to complete our banners. We have approval for twelve (12) towns and banners will be hanging in twelve (12) towns in the spring of 2023. We have been doing this for four and a half years and are currently picking up support on a daily basis. We are viewed favorably by many of the veteran groups supporting veteran issues, we are extremely careful to represent every detail of our banners by doing it to accepted military practices, down to the proper display of medals in proper ranking for multiple awards, verifying medals and the proper use of ranks for the period of service. Period of service we use D.O.D. guidelines, in the case of the ultimate sacrifice made for a grateful nation we use Gold Star Lapel Pin or Next Of Kin Lapel Pin to distinguish between combat death and non combat death, according to all guidelines pertaining to this issue.*

*We approach towns as inquiries come in and we fully understand that this process can take time. We are always interested in giving formal presentations and answering any or all questions. We do this as a public service and this will cost the town nothing, unless the town is willing to assist us, that is a decision for the town. We appreciate any assistance the town is willing to provide, and seek a mutual understanding and collaborative relationship if possible.*

*We charge \$225.00 per banner for single photo banners and \$295.00 for banners with two photos. with a three year warranty against failure or loss. Our two photo banners can be one person who served in two branches of the military, or two separate people on one banner. We are constantly trying to expand options for our clients. We hope to have a banner season just prior to Memorial Day to just past Veterans Day. We store the banners when they are not hanging and maintain them for their lifespan. We expect the banners to last a minimum of three years and will hang them past that time for a hanging and removal fee of \$25.00 a year,*

*which has become necessary. Once the banner has met its lifespan, it will be returned to the person who applied for it, if the person desires to continue with the program, the current reprint cost is \$140.00 as long as there are no major changes to the banner textual changes allowed. We have had to hang banners in Center Harbor and Franklin and have agreed to hang banners in Campton, Pelham, Danville, Loudon, Hooksett, Henniker and Allenstown . When we do this we find the right people and the proper equipment. In the City of Concord and the Town of Newport the banners are hung by the city / town.*

*We are currently working on a design for a First Responder banner to honor those who serve our communities.*

*Please feel free to contact me with any questions or if there are issues you want further clarification on. I appreciate the chance to bring this proposal to your town and look forward to the opportunity to provide a community service to you that honors those who give so much. I honored my fallen brother with a banner in Attica N.Y. last year and will continue to have it hung every year until it needs replacement, at which time I will get a new one. I feel it is important to understand I followed other existing programs, because I firmly believe that this program has great rewards for all.*

*Thank you for your consideration in this matter*

*Matthew Wieczhalek- Seiler*

# Concord For Hometown Heroes Banners



**Matthew Wieczhalek-Seiler**

**69 Manchester St. Lot 3**

**Concord, N.H. 03301-5147**

**(603) 219-6792 cell /text/voice**

**[mattseiler5757@gmail.com](mailto:mattseiler5757@gmail.com)**

**[www.concordforhometownheroesbanners.com](http://www.concordforhometownheroesbanners.com)**

## Our Proposal

*Our proposal is pretty simple, we are asking your town to assist us to obtain a permit from the electric company, so we can hang banners from their utility poles.*

*We propose a banner size of 24" x 48" with grommets on one side, this enables them to be tied to the brackets, using stainless steel wire ties.*

*We ask for a hanging season prior to Memorial Day to just past Veterans Day, we have the ability to hang and remove the banners.*

*When we remove banners we will leave our brackets on the pole, for hanging banners the following year.*

*We do not expect any marketing assistance from your town, but we are willing to discuss any assistance your town may provide. This assistance can be listing us on your Town website or allowing us to put paperwork in the Town Offices, this is voluntary.*

*We will store the banners when they are not hanging, and maintain them.*

*We are willing to adjust any qualifications or application specifics that the Town would like to see implemented. We prefer to keep access to the program as open to as many residents as possible, making the maximum number of veterans to be honored as possible.*

*We appreciate your consideration in this matter and in no way do we want to burden your Town, or cost the Town any money. The banners are paid for by family and/or friends, so the cost of the program is funded by the people who sponsor our banners. Our banners are a public display that you allow to honor residents of your town who served in the U.S. Military.*



## ANNUAL WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

In spite of a snowy day, the annual wreath laying ceremony took place on Tuesday, November 20th at the Franklin Pierce gravesite in Concord, NH. Army and Air Force NH National Guardsmen presented the colors. The Christa McAuliffe second grade classes (pictured at right) led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and sang the Star Spangled Banner. The wreath, provided by the White House, was laid by Brigadier General O'Brien and Matt Seiler, founder of the Concord Hometown Heroes Banners project. BG O'Brien spoke of Pierce's time in office, noting the United States was just 30 years old when Pierce was President. The ceremony ended with the playing of "Taps" by Chief Warrant Officer Sean Pinsonnault.

Those attending the ceremony were invited back to the Pierce Manse to warm up and were served light refreshments.

Staff Sergeant Anthony Rorick was in charge of making arrangements for the ceremony

Cathy Thomas Kaplan attended a lecture at the Manse and mentioned her participation in the wreath laying ceremony in 1978. She kindly shared the pictures shown at right with us. Obviously the ceremony took place at a different and warmer time of the year.

The new membership directories will be issued in February. If there are any changes to your information, please let us know.

Email membership chairman, Ginny Friberg at [vstfri@aol.com](mailto:vstfri@aol.com) or call the Manse (603)225-4555 and leave us a message!

*Christa McAuliffe School 2nd graders at the wreath laying ceremony November 20, 2018*

*Walker School 4th graders headed for the wreath laying ceremony in 1978*

*Cathy Thomas Kaplan ready to lay the wreath in 1978*

December 2018

Volume 14 No.11

Brigade Officers 2019

President: Joan Woodhead Vice President: Tom Fisk Secretary: Wanda Conroy

Treasurer: Marty Bender Asst. Secretary: Tom Fisk

Asst. Treasurer:

Connie Lessard

Volunteer Coordinator:

Joan Davis

Committee Chairmen

Cemetery Plot: Freda Spiro

Collections: Paula Fortner

Facilities: Ginny Merrill Gift Shop: Nancy Fransen

Historian:

Hospitality:

Julie Westgard-Cole Members-At Large

Janet Anderson

Peter Weeman Membership: Ginny Friberg Sunshine: Carolyn Bunnell

Programs: Sue Place Newsletter: Joan Woodhead



Winter 2019

Volume 11 Issue 1

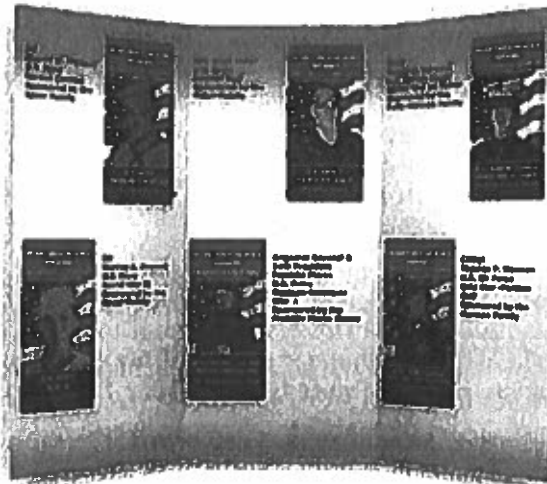


## Survivor Outreach Services

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Benefit Rate Increase for 2019	3
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### Hometown Hero Banners Update



Elizabeth Santos  
Survivor Outreach Services  
Support Coordinator  
MSTI Contractor  
NH National Guard  
1 Minuteman Way  
Concord NH 03301  
Office 603-227-5130  
Cell 603-219-8159  
**EMAIL:**  
Elizabeth.g.santos.ctr@mail.mil

**FACEBOOK:**  
Elizabeth Santos



Survivor Matthew Wieczhalek-Seiler continues his mission to bring this banners to Concord for display Memorial Day to Veterans Day. He continues to take orders and will have a few "hang" dates for Main St. Concord.

Matt is now looking for volunteers who would like to expand this throughout the state! Some are already well into the process, so if you'd like to get involved and bring banners to your town, please contact Matt through his Facebook page:

**Concord for Hometown Heroes Banners**, or  
mattseiler5757@gmail.com , or call/text Matt at (603)219-6792.

Never Forgotten, Never Alone.

Local News

Real Estate

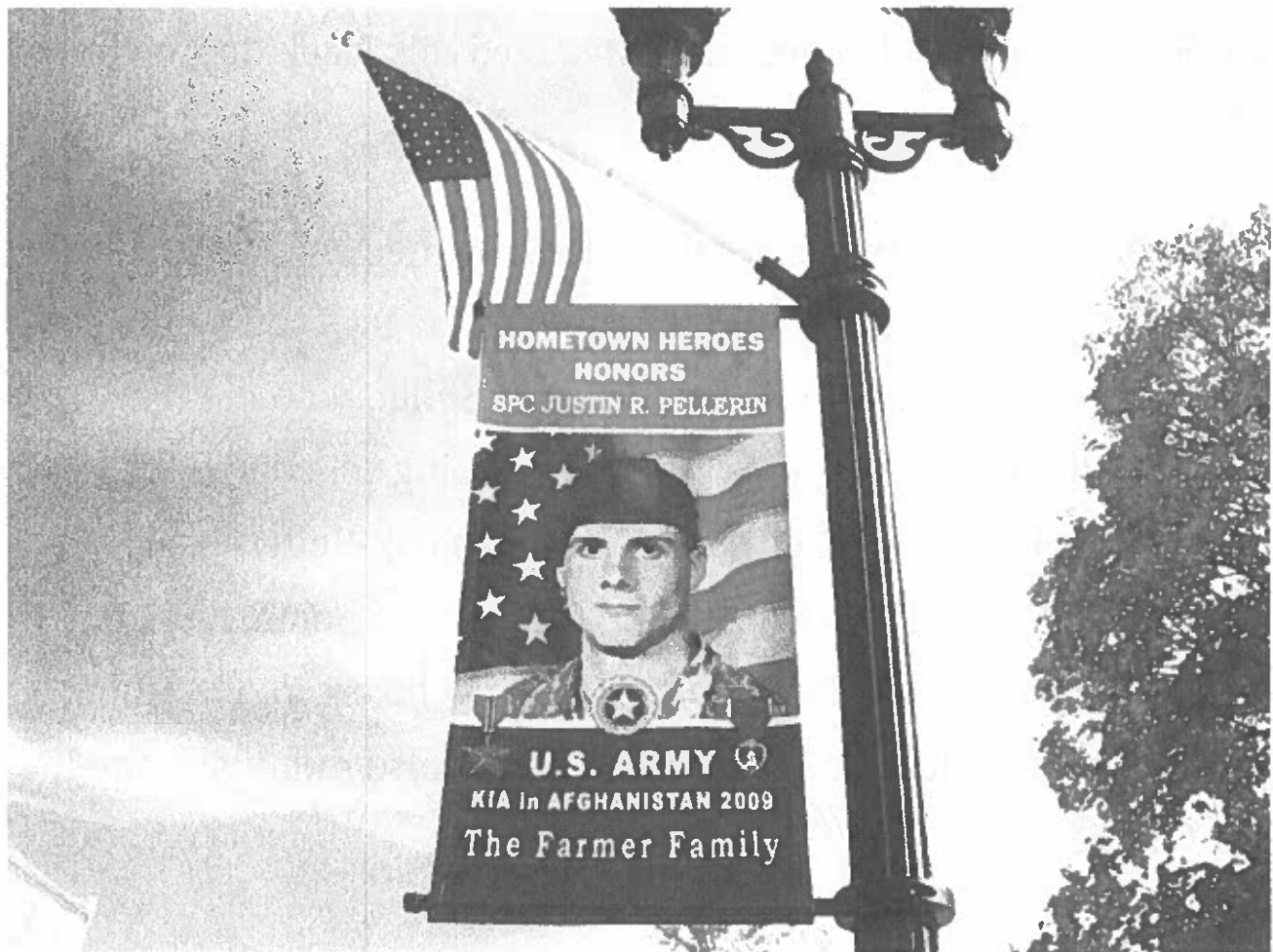
Events

Get Tickets

# Concord For Hometown Heroes Banners Hung All Over New Hampshire

Matthew Wieczhalek-Seiler's tribute to veterans, inspired by his late-brother's service, is quickly spreading all around the Granite State.

By Tony Schinella | May 26, 2019 10:00 am ET



Concord For Hometown Heroes Banner for Justin Pellerin, who was killed in 2009, hangs outside the Statehouse in Concord. (Tony Schinella | Patch )

CONCORD, NH — If you noticed that there were more new banners of veterans hanging along Concord's Main Street, you would be correct. Concord For Hometown Heroes, an organization founded by Matthew Wieczhalek-Seiler to honor those who have served, is up to 13 banners in Concord and has expanded to Campton, Center Harbor, Franklin, and Newport, for 2019. The Concord banners were installed this week, in time for Memorial Day.

Wieczhalek-Seiler, while installing flags at the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery, said the project was inspired by the passing of his brother, Staff Sgt. Thomas Seiler, who died in October 2016, at Fort Bragg, just before being scheduled for another deployment. After he died, Wieczhalek-Seiler went to Attica, NY, to assist his father. During his drive home, he noticed honor banners around New York. But when he entered Vermont, they seemed to stopped. Wieczhalek-Seiler also didn't see any in the Granite State.

So, he started the project.

“The whole thing about the banner program that I really try and stress to people is there’s a terrible cost that our country is paying,” he said. “We lose 22 veterans a day to suicide, politicians don’t (seem to care) about veterans. Just like all of these other groups, I’m just trying to bring awareness.”

Work as a historic preservationist on buildings is the reason Wieczhalek-Seiler came to New Hampshire in the first place many years ago. Now retired, the project keeps him busy.

Veterans, he added, preserve freedom and they “shouldn’t go to the grave alone.” The banners, the research required to find out about the veterans honored, the work with others like printers and photo editors to ensure the banners are of high quality, are another way of preserving history in the state, too.

“I just needed another direction to go,” he said.

The Concord banners – which include one for the state’s only president, Franklin Pierce – will be up for 30 days along Main Street in Downtown Concord.

For more information on how to sponsor a banner or help the effort, [visit the Concord For Hometown Heroes Banners site on Facebook.](#)

## OUR MISSION:

We strive to convince towns to allow us to hang our personalized Tribute Banners in their town to honor those who have served in the military. Only a Town can obtain a permit to hang on utility poles. We would like to do this in every town, across the state. "A TRIBUTE WITH HONOR" is how we refer to our banners.

### VILLAGE OF ATTICA HOMETOWN HEROES

SSGT Thomas P. Seiler

Army  
Global War on Terror



The Seiler Family

**HOMETOWN HEROES  
HONORS**

SPC JUSTIN R. PELLERIN



**U.S. ARMY**  
GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR  
The Farmer Family

## OUR PROGRESS;

We started this project in July 2018 in Concord by Veterans day we had eleven banners. In 2019 we got banners hanging in Concord, Newport, Center Harbor, and Franklin. With approval for our program in, Raymond, Dansville, Allenstown, Campton, and Henniker. This year we have secured approval in Loudon and Pelham. When we hang this year we will have Banners in nine towns and will continue to work on Raymond and Henniker, to get qualification requirements in place to start hanging there.

## MOVING FORWARD:

We intend to continually contact new towns and explain what we do to honor those who have served, and sacrificed. As a GOLD STAR BROTHER I do everything possible to do this in the most respectful method, following all military protocols. As a organization we pride ourselves in our high quality photo work, and our research to learn as much as possible about our honorees. We do our best to develop new products to meet the wants of our banners sponsors, and to give them everything they want on their banner, to honor their family member or significant friend.



**HOMETOWN HEROES  
HONORS**

Lt. Col. ROGER S. GROSS



**U.S. AIR FORCE**  
VIETNAM WAR · PERSIAN GULF  
The Gross Family

**HOMETOWN HEROES  
HONORS**

Lt. Col. ROGER S. GROSS



**U.S. ARMY**  
VIETNAM WAR · PERSIAN GULF  
The Gross Family

## OUR NEWEST DESIGN

Late last year we were asked to use a second photo on a banner to represent one person who served in two branches of the military. This is one of such banners, we broke the medals down for each branch of service with a photo of each branch. This can also have two different people on the same banner on different sides, which we have also done. This also helps families honor multiple Family members who have served.



**HOMETOWN HEROES  
HONORS**  
Ssg. THOMAS P. SEILER



**U.S. ARMY**  
**GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR**  
The Wierzchalek-Seiler Family

## OUR GHOST BANNER

THIS BANNER IS A FAVORITE OF  
GOLD STAR FAMILIES, BECAUSE  
OF THE SPIRITUAL FEEL. I  
DESIGNED THIS BANNER TO  
HONOR MY FALLEN BROTHER, IT  
WAS A VERY EMOTIONAL  
PROJECT. THIS IS OUR THIRD  
BANNER DESIGN.

HOMETOWN HEROES  
HONORS  
ROBERT N. FISKE



CHIEF  
LOUDON NH POLICE  
The Fiske Family

## FIRST RESPONDER BANNER

WE ARE CREATING THIS BANNER  
TO HONOR FIRST RESPONDERS,  
FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN OUR  
COMMUNITIES. WE HAVE NO  
TOWN APPROVAL FOR THIS  
BANNER YET, BUT WE ARE  
HOPEFUL IT WILL HAPPEN. WE  
WILL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS  
TO FINISH THIS PROJECT.

## OUR OTHER PRODUCTS



**We offer a post for people who want a banner before we get approval in a town. We will even buy the post back if we get town approval.**

**HOMETOWN HEROES  
HONORS**  
PIC LAWRENCE W. MARTEL



**U.S. NAVY  
W.W. II**  
The Martel Family

### DECALS

These are  
printed from  
the banner  
proof and  
are printed  
in high  
resolution  
on durable  
vinyl with  
permanent  
ink

**HOMETOWN HEROES  
HONORS**  
1ST LT. JOHN FRANCIS LEE III



**U.S. ARMY  
VIETNAM WAR**  
The McKenney-Cote Family

## OUR OTHER PRODUCTS



### BACKLIT PICTURE FRAMES

These are available in 8" x 8" and 5" x 7" they are powered by batteries or a usb cable. The photo of your choice printed on a translucent film is included.



### OUR PATCH

Our logo and motto on a embroidered 3" patch

## GAINING SUPPORT

This represents the four names that have been honored by having their names on the Newport Veterans Club Post #25 who support what we do. This is also the first time in the state that the names affiliated with a post have had been displayed on banners in a town. As a statement of our appreciation we gifted two banners to the building representing all for names and installed them. We only ask for moral support, not financial support. Helping us spread the word of what we do. Having our Brochures, business cards available Hanging posters or a advertisement banner.



**HOMETOWN HEROES  
HONORS**

**Cpl. JONATHAN PORTO**

**HOMETOWN HEROES  
HONORS**

**Cpl. JONATHAN PORTO**



**U.S. MARINE CORPS**

**AFGHANISTAN K.I.A. 3-14-2010**

**The Bernaby & Porto Family**

**U.S. MARINE CORPS**

**AFGHANISTAN K.I.A. 3-14-2010**

**The Bernaby & Porto Family**

**Single photo banner same on both  
sides**

**HOMETOWN HEROES  
HONORS**

**Sgt. CHARLES E. RAYNO**



**HOMETOWN HEROES  
HONORS**

**Ssg. JOSEPH A. RAYNO**



**U.S. MARINE CORPS  
KOREAN ERA**

**The Rayno Family**

**U.S. ARMY  
VIETNAM WAR**

**The Rayno Family**

**This is a 2 Photo banner with two  
individuals represented one on each  
side.**