

## **A HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 42 IN HOLDEN**

The American Legion (42 John E. Harkins) is a post of the national American Legion and a post of war veterans in Holden, Massachusetts. It was chartered on June 20, 1919, <sup>1</sup> in the same year in which the American Legion was chartered by Congress as a "patriotic veterans organization."<sup>2</sup> It was originally established to "support veterans who served in World War I and to promote patriotism and community service."<sup>2</sup>

Today, it faithfully continues to proudly support our veterans and their families through valuable programs, fundraising, resources, and through hosting community events that it provides for our military members. It "welcomes all military members (young, old, active duty and retired) and their families--to join them in brotherhood and fellowship."<sup>1</sup>

American Legion Post 42 in Holden provides a welcoming place and fosters a sense of belonging for veterans and their families by providing a space to gather and to build friendships. Members also enjoy some refreshments and interesting lectures presented about a wide variety of subjects.<sup>3,4</sup> It supports our military members through its community service, the awarding of scholarships for local youth, the contribution of various support groups, the provision of a canteen, and veteran advocacy.

1. American Legion Department of Massachusetts website (<https://www.masslegion.org>)
2. American Legion website (<https://www.legion.org>)
3. Holden, MA Town website (<https://www.holdenma.gov>)
4. Friends of Holden Council on Ageing ([www.flhcoa.org](http://www.flhcoa.org))