

IN MEMORIAM – Once again we have lost another valued member of our community. John “Jack” Murphy slipped away after failing health, but left behind a calvacade of friends, following a lifetime of service to the town of Eliot.

Jack served on the town Planning Board for over 16 years, the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee, Charter Commission, Eliot Energy Commission, Eliot Sewer Committee and several terms on the Select Board. He also helped start up and served on the town’s Shellfish Committee. A lifelong member of the Eliot Historical Society he sought to preserve and protect Eliot’s historical and rural character while upholding the town’s ordinances and citizen’s rights. Jack supported our activities and especially our Schoolhouse restoration, himself having gone to a one room schoolhouse – the #4 on Goodwin Road (when his family lived on Beech Ridge Road) and also the #3 (after they moved to Brixham Road). Each year, on the 4th of July, he would meet with others at the home of Connie Weeks (Backfields Farm) and read the Declaration of Independence for those gathered, a task he (and we) delighted in and which held special meaning for us all.



An avid reader, student of history and consummate researcher, Jack was an invaluable asset to our town with his varied and unique insights. With his passing we have lost not only a good friend but his lifetime of institutional knowledge. Godspeed Jack!

The growing good of the world is partly dependent on unhistoric acts... – George Eliot, Middlemarch

A huge thank you to **Jan Cerabona**, who put together a wonderful display at the Elementary School honoring our veterans, and to **American Legion Post #188** for the loaning of their “honor boards”. Teachers, children and staff also donated pictures of their loved ones for this November display in recognition of Veteran’s Day. Included are Neil Sherman, great grandfather of Sorrel who served in the Navy, WWII and his father Albert Sherman, Army, WWI; Commander Herrin, PNSY, husband of Mrs. Herrin; Isla’s grandfather Samuel Sloan, Draftee, 1957-1959; Quinn Travaglina’s great grandfather; Mayze’s mom; Charlotte and Chloe Gamache’s grandfather Allan Porter, US Air Force, retired; Mrs. Shisler’s husband; Mrs. Sbrizza’s husband; Mrs. Scribner’s dad, Vernon “Babe” Searles, US Army; Mrs. Emerson’s son Joseph



Emerson, US Marines; Tyler's dad CDR Prescott Sleeper, US Navy; Gianna Leblanc's grandfather Michael Michaud, US Navy Seabees; Albert E. Welch, Jr., US Marines, WWII, the great grandfather of Ashton and Brody Harding; Larry Shirk, Nolan's grandfather; Patrick Bacon, SGT USMC; Emily and Ida's grandfather; Larry Gillis (Mrs. Corson's dad) receiving commendation for bravery in search for survivors after the collapse of the Texas Tower, he served aboard the US Sunbird; and

telegrams concerning Matthew Hood, Sr. about Jan Cerabona's brother being born and her father getting leave to come home for a couple of days. At the time he was



stateside. Later he was stationed in Japan as part of the occupation. This display dovetails very nicely with the December 13th, by **Wreaths Across America** to Eliot. It's an event you won't want to miss!!! Be sure to check out the



information and join the School in honoring those who serving our country.



community at Eliot Elementary have served and are now



Cemetery repair work has ended for this year. In advance of the colder weather that is beginning to set in, **Paul Johnson** got a few more tasks, that were on his list, completed. At the **Rogers cemetery** he was able to drill and chisel out the bases of the stones set in the granite curbing and put them back in. He also did a repair.



At the **Spinney/Tetherly cemetery** the broken stone of Elizabeth Tetherly was repaired and put back in its base. We will have to come back next spring to see about the possibility of taking down some trees in the cemetery and putting the two displaced stones back in their bases, as well as straightening some other stones.

And at the **Neall cemetery** Jan and Rosanne were able to get back in for a little more clearing.



BEFORE AND AFTER



They discovered another buried and broken stone. The stone is fast deteriorating so some decisions will have to be made as to what to do with it next spring. The land owner, Mark, has now arranged for a crew to come in and clear the cemetery and chip up the wood. Working together! Stay tuned for more news!



November 5th **Lydia Goodwin, Janice Cerabona, and Rosanne Adams** joined **Steve Robinson and Austin Mahoney** of the Eliot Highway Department and other Eliot residents to witness the securing of the bronze plaque for Eliot's Maine Bicentennial Time Capsule on the rock at Hammond Park. The stone will be covered for the winter. A HUGE thank you to Austin and Steve. It looks great!



opportunity for our Historical Society. Alex Herlihy, from the Rye, NH Historical Society, wrote offering a display case. This led to an invitation from him to join his **Clamshell** group, an informal group of representatives from other historical societies “across the river”. Presently New Castle, Rye, No. Hampton, Hampton, Hampton Falls, Seabrook and Kingston have reps. He says that they have occasional correspondence and plans to visit member’s museums. In November they visited Rye’s museum, but I was unable to go. It would be nice to have someone represent us who could do an occasional in-person meeting.

It will provide our Society the opportunity to exchange ideas with others, sharing successes and challenges. It doesn’t require a huge block of time, just an interest. If you would like to be our liaison please contact me and I’ll put you in touch! To be added to their mailing list please write:

info@ryenhhistoricalsociety.org

Volunteer

Opportunity!!

Do you like to visit interesting places and learn about the history of other towns? Then the Eliot Historical Society might have just the “job” for you!

A recent inquiry has turned into an

NEWS AND EVENTS**DECEMBER 13th WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**

10:15 AM ~ Convoy arrival

10:30-11:30 ~ Ceremony inside the Eliot Fire Department Masks will be required.

NOON ~ Convoy departs

We have been given a wonderful opportunity to help host WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA as they make their way to Washington, D.C. Hope to see you there!

DECEMBER 19 - Rye Historical Society Open

House. This year's Holiday Open House will again be a virtual event, but we hope to see you on our screens to hear some updates on what we've been doing this year and where we are going as we lead up to the 400th celebrations in 2023!

Time: Dec 19, 2021 05:00 PM
Eastern Time (US and Canada)Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83891532192?pwd=UTRtTzJkZE5lY1N4aDl6OU9UUEN2dz09>

Meeting ID: 838 9153 2192
Passcode: 514646



November 24 –**January 2****WINTER****WONDERS at****Sandy Hill Farm**

returns for its second year! This year it is bigger and better and there are some

unique surprises for those attending. The path winds through 14 acres of beautiful, enchanted hardwood forest. Just over a mile it is on gentle rolling terrain and takes about an hour to see everything. You can go around more than once if you want. (and you'll want to ☺) Trails are all compacted gravel so wheelchairs and strollers with all-terrain wheels should be able to navigate the paths. Tickets can be bought online. <https://www.sandyhillmaine.com/winter-wonders>



EHS member **Donald Ketzler** sent us notification that he had recently celebrated his 90th birthday with a concert, on September 26th, at the First Calvary Baptist Church in North Andover, Mass. His love for music led him to become an accomplished organist. The story of this and his growing up in Eliot, on Brixham Road, can be found on our website under “Eliot Memory Project” – 1930’s. You can view his birthday concert here on youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLiPRI1SWE>

As we close out another year please take a moment to reflect upon the joys that this past year has brought and the ways in which our community has come together to support one another, to remember those we've lost and celebrate those we have welcomed into this world. May the coming year bring us all an abundance of peace, health and happiness!

