

October 6, 2009
J Arthur Stowell
American Legion Post 83
PO Box 182
Freeport, ME 04032

Dear Friend,

We are very excited to be sponsoring a celebration this November to honor service people past and present. A statewide **Maine Veteran's Arts Celebration** will be held at FREEPORT SQUARE GALLERY throughout November, 2009. Special events are planned all month long and particularly on November 11, including special ceremonies at 11am. We are working with veterans' organizations around the state to bring this focus on veterans to our town. Our local Post, **J Arthur Stowell Post, No 83** was granted a charter by the American Legion on January 16, 1920, with a charter membership of sixteen veterans of World War I. The name of the post was given in honor of J.Arthur Stowell, the son of Mr. And Mrs. John Stowell of Freeport. He was a graduate of Freeport High. At the time of his enlistment, he was a student at Colby College. He died at Xivery, in France, under circumstances which caused the award of a decoration by the French government. The official statement reads: "Stowell, Arthur J., 69811, Private headquarters Company, 103rd Infantry, 26th Division, French Croix de Guerre with gilt star, under Order No 145 "D" dated November 9, 1918, French Armies of the North and Northeast, with the following citation: "He volunteered as litter bearer and displayed the greatest indifference to danger in giving aid to his comrades under a most violent bombardment. Was mortally wounded in accomplishing this mission." The Post has been active since then. In this time of multiple wars and increased focus on the people who serve our country, we choose to look forward and backward at the history of our Maine service people through the arts they have created and continue to create. We choose to honor their service by presenting them through a celebration of their creativity.

Small veterans' Art Shows have been held scattered throughout the state over the past several years. This is the first attempt to bring veteran artists together in a concentrated format. Freeport Square Gallery is a large enough space to bring together this event. We are looking to you for financial or other support to help this group of events come alive here in Freeport.

The art exhibit will bring together Veteran artists and art from all over Maine – Kittery to Fort Kent. This powerful exhibit will showcase the sensibilities of artists who have served our country throughout the years. Work will be both war related and of everyday life. Art styles will range from contemporary realism to abstract. All media will be presented from pencil to sculpture. Concurrent with the art exhibit will be poetry readings, book readings and musical performances. All artists exhibiting and performing will be veterans from all branches of service and will include posthumous submissions. This will be a powerful month of art experiences that will impact both exhibitor and viewer.

We are working with veterans groups from all over the state to bring in the arts experiences. Please help us with this month of stirring events to honor those who have served our nation. We will give you full credit for helping us with this mission or gladly agree to keep your anonymity.

If you would like more information, please call (Local contact: _____ /
Telephone #: _____). Kindly leave a message with a
phone number so that we can get back to you.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joyce Clarkson-Veilleux
Adjutant, Post 83 (*a local non-profit organization since 1946*)

Our tax ID# 01-6014622