



*Photos: Left: MA state senator Stephen Brewer presents Barney Cummings, Sr. with a Resolution honoring his decades serving the people of MA (Barney Cummings, Jr, right). Right: Cummings receives Marine Corps Birthday cake with youngest attending Marine, Meriwether Ball, and others.*

## Athol Daily News, November 15, 2009

### Cummings Honored By Senate, Pequoig Detachment 1168 Marine Corps League

ATHOL -- Long-time Athol Daily News Editor Barney Cummings Sr., 89, was honored at Tuesday's Marine Corps Birthday celebration to commemorate the 234th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps. Held at the Athol American Legion Post 102, Cummings was presented three awards, including a Senate Resolution honoring his 70 years of service to country and community, by State Senator Stephen Brewer.

Senator Brewer cited Cummings for World II service, over 40 years of coaching area youth sports and, as noted by honored guest speaker Meriwether Ball, president and CEO of Corps Stories, Inc., his ongoing commitment as Athol Daily News editor to publishing the personal stories of area service members that have served, or are serving, in harm's way. Cummings served in the United States Marines, Marine Aircraft Group 24, from 1941 to 1945.

Orange native Richard Gore, National Vice Commander, New England Division, and National Chief of Staff Marine Corps League, presented Cummings with a distinguished National Meritorious Citizens Award (Gold), the highest award presented by the Marine Corps League.

The evening's accolades concluded with Cummings receiving the Robert M. Carey award, as voted by members of Local Pequoig Detachment 1168 Marine Corps League. This award was presented by detachment commandant Barney Cummings Jr. It is given in memory of Robert Carey, league member and champion of veterans causes, to a person who has exhibited outstanding community service. The first two recipients were veterans agent Toni Phillips, and Santa Lajoie for her support of the Toys for Tots program.

Cummings was accompanied by his wife Beth, and son Barney Jr.; three daughters, Starr Cummings and her daughter Rozlyn; Stacey Cupka and her husband, Robert, and son Robbie; and Cynthia Hager and her husband, Sgt. Kent Hager of the Athol Police Department with their two sons Gregory and Donald and daughter Elizabeth.

The program for the event stated that "We honor Barney Cummings Sr. for his service to family, community, country and Corps for more than 70 years. Barney has been a keystone of the Athol community his entire life; coaching Little League and high school sports, contributing to the Athol Daily News since March 1956, and attending all patriotic parades, fundraisers, events, and Marine Corps birthdays. He raised four daughters and two sons. His record as the editor in chief of the Athol Daily News has been a legend in our town's history for nearly 60 years."

Approximately 90 persons attended the event.

The ceremony included introductions by the commandant; the presentation of Colors; the invocation by George Willard, chaplain.

Earle King, Toys For Tots chairman, gave the Commandant's Message, followed by General Lejeune's Message; and Gary Williams, paymaster, recognized the MIA table.

A braised beef dinner was served, and dessert was a U.S. Marine Corps birthday cake. As the senior Marine in attendance, Cummings presented the first piece of cake to the junior Marine present, 19-year-old Jesse Robideau of Athol.

The group sang the Marine Hymn, with the senior Marine leading in song.