



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**NORTHERN NH CORRECTIONAL FACILITY HOLDS MEMORIAL  
DAY CEREMONY**

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**Berlin, NH** – The American Legion Post Ryan J. Savard Post 123 at the Northern New Hampshire Correctional Facility, hosted its annual Memorial Day Ceremony this week. The ceremony marked the first-time outside guests have been able to join the Memorial Day event since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Post welcomed Pastor Erick Ness to deliver the keynote address. Attendees listened to the singing of Taps by Reverend Betsy Hess, and the reading of the names of all New Hampshire service members who were Killed in Action in Iraq and Afghanistan, in addition to several other presentations.

“The New Hampshire Department of Corrections is pleased to host this ceremony annually to pay tribute to the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice defending our freedom,” said Assistant Commissioner Paul Raymond, Jr., who also spoke at the event. “This event is a proud tradition at the Northern New Hampshire Correctional Facility, and we are honored to be joined today by Sergeant First Class Ryan J. Savard’s parents, Sergeant Major (Ret.) Garrett and Marie Savard.”

“I am thrilled to be back at the Northern New Hampshire Correctional Facility for the Memorial Day ceremony,” said past American Legion National Vice Commander, John Neylon. “Since working to establish this post in 2013, I couldn’t be prouder of how far it has come. It is my hope that by providing incarcerated veterans with the opportunity to connect with other veterans, and give back to their community, it will help aid in their rehabilitation, and provide them with a strong network of support upon their release.”

American Legion Post 123 was established at the Northern New Hampshire Correctional Facility in 2013. At the time, New Hampshire was only the third state in the nation to establish an American Legion post inside of a correctional facility. In 2016, the post was named for Army Sergeant First Class Ryan J. Savard, who was killed in a Special Forces rescue mission in Afghanistan on October 12, 2012.



*From left to right: Sgt. Major (Ret.) Garrett Savard, American Legion Past National Vice  
Commander John Neylon  
Courtesy Photo*



*Northern NH Correctional Facility Residents attend 2023 Memorial Day Ceremony  
Courtesy Photo*

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