

KT
Ruth & Ulysses

4-10-98

Dear COUNCILLOR TRIANTIFILLOU

Would you concur with my opinion,
that this document supports some
recognition from the city. It
indicates 68 years of community
service, veteran work, to our city

Ulysses



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

ISAAC W. TAYLOR POST NO. 2443

POST OFFICE BOX 179 • CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

Sr. Vice Commander

Jr. Vice Commander

Lloyd C. Haynes

Lawrence Montgomery

Commander

Stanley J. Burrell

July 22, 1985

The following statement was found among the papers in our "OLD" quarters, the author is unknown, but his words should live forever.

History of the Isaac W. Taylor Post # 2443

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

At the conclusion of World War I, the returning veterans had the privilege of joining either the Veterans of Foreign Wars, an organization founded by veterans of the Spanish American War, or the American Legion, the new organization born of World War I. Both organizations have done a remarkable job in keeping alive the memories of their departed buddies and taking care of the general welfare of veterans, his widows and orphans for the past twenty-six years.

Then as well as now, many of the veterans did not seem interested in becoming members of any organization. Realizing the need for larger membership, the national body of the Veterans of Foreign Wars put on many drives for the formation of new posts. It was during one of these drives in the year 1932, that Louis B. Caution of Cambridge, having been appointed Deputy by the State Department V.F.W. with the power to organize posts in Middlesex County, conceived the idea of organizing another post in the City of Cambridge, composed of colored veterans in memory of Isaac W. Taylor, a Cambridge veteran, who died overseas in the service of his country.

It might be well to mention here the general belief among the posts already set up was, that no city or town could support more than one post of the same organization



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History of the Isaac W. Taylor Post # 2443(continued page 2)

A sort Of an unwritten law as it were. This did not deter Mr. Caution from making the attempt to carry through his plans. He contacted a fellow postal employee William S. Elliott, who gladly opened his home for meetings and helped secure sufficient names for a charter. Everything was in readiness to make application in the proper manner, when a storm of protest arose from the Russell Hoyt Post No. 299 V.F.W. who could not see the practicability of another veterans of foreign wars post in Cambridge.

However, after much debate pro and con in the County Council meeting, composed of delegates from all the posts in Middlesex County, the Isaac W. Taylor Post # 2443 was given the Hoyt Post's parental blessing, and the installation of officers took place in Cypress Hall, Cambridge on the evening of March 29, 1932.

William S. Elliott, Class of 1912 Rindge Technical School, was installed as first Commander; Robert H. Elam, Sr. Vice Commander; Joseph Callender, Jr. Vice Commander; Sothern Smallwood, Adjutant; William E. Wise, Quartermaster and Rev. Clarence Burrell Chaplain, who is now pastor of a large church in Pittsburg Pa.

Our first meeting place was in the old Tarbell School House, now known as the Cambridge Community Center at 49 Howard St. Much assistance was given this new post by the Russell E. Hoyt Post # 299 through the benefit of her experience in veteran matters. William Mahoney, Commander and John Moran were outstanding in their cooperation. It is also pleasing to note the mutual feeling of friendship and fraternalism that has existed up to the present time.

After many disappointments we succeeded in securing quarters in the Inman Square Firehouse with thanks to John H. Lynch, who was then Mayor of Cambridge and instrumental in making possible our present location.



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History of the Isaac W. Taylor Post #2443 (continued page 3)

Our Auxiliary has functioned through the years in support of the post. Incidentally, Mrs. William S. Elliott was elected first president of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Isaac W. Taylor Post # 2443, and both husband and wife received excellent cooperation from the members. Mrs. Grace Taylor, wife of Isaac W. Taylor modestly preferred to stay in the background at the beginning, although she worked just as hard when holding minor offices, as when she became president later. Past President Mrs. Grace Caution, wife of Louis B. Caution, the founder, was an ardent worker as likewise Past Presidents: Mrs. Julian Lawrence, Mrs. Sarah Smith, Mrs. Bruce Wright and Mrs. Ernest Kenswil.

We can boast of having the same quartermaster for fourteen years in the person of William E. Wise. A few of the charter members who have contributed considerably toward the success of this post are as follows: Past Commanders Henry Roberts, Julian Lawrence, Gilbert Harvey, James Moore, Albert Sumpter, Dr. C.B. Clark, Stanley Jarvis Nathaniel Cotten and Edward Harmon Sr.

The post is now functioning under the excellent guidance of Commander Clifton C. Merriman, holder of the Distinguished Service Cross, who has been acclaimed by many not only for his wonderful war record, but for the spirit he has infused among the members toward civic pride and the betterment of the community. He is responsible for the large membership the post is now enjoying.

Ethusiasm is running high among the members at the present time in anticipation of the coming convention which takes place in Boston from September 1 to September 6.

P.S. Past Commander Clifton C. Merriman was in office 1935-36

PRESENT CMDR
ULYSSES H. CORDE

Consent Communication #4

S-288

A communication was received from Ruth & Ulysses Gore, transmitting a document from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Isaac W. Taylor Post No. 2443, regarding papers found in the "old" quarters.

In City Council April 27, 1998

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