



Memorial Day Parade Marshal Herbert Pratte and Speaker Wilfred R. Marchand check the program for the May 29 activities.

Marshal

Being marshal of the Memorial Day parade is an honor bestowed on Herbert A. Pratte. For other honors and titles in the past he has had to work. One of these was being the former New England Golden Glove champ.

The boxing enthusiast was born in Norwich Conn in 1916. His twin brother Henry is chief of the Police Dept.

Another brother Charles was declared missing in action during World War II.

And it is for him that the Pratte was included in the Stevens-Laroche-Pratte post title.

The Pratte family moved to town shortly after the twins were born and has lived here ever since.

Herb enlisted in the RI National Guard in 1940. When the war began, he remained in the Army, starting as an enlisted man and ending as an officer, until his honorable discharge was granted in December 1945.

He became an officer in 1942 after attending an officer training school in Texas. A year later he was promoted again and sent to the European War Theater as part of the 628th Tank Destroyer Battalion, which made the initial entry into Germany.

Mr Pratte took part in four major campaigns during which he was awarded a presidential unit citation, the Bronze Star, and Purple Heart with a cluster for being wounded twice in battle.

The president of Warren High School's Alumni Assoc in 1939, also served as commander of the Stevens-Laroche-Pratte Post 122, Veterans of Foreign Wars in 1946.

In an effort to build the post treasury, he took four hundred dollars from his personal account for four ringside seats to the Joe Louis-Billy Conn fight at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

The tickets were expedited from NYC by Promoter Mike Jacobs whom Mr Pratte had known since Golden Glove days. Tickets were printed, a drawing held, Herb was reimbursed, and the post netted \$1400 for its treasury.

1946 was the year post membership hit 250, highest it has ever been.

After attending many schools in the New England Telephone and Telegraph Co since 1946, he works in the installation-repair department.

Mr Pratte was elected to the Town Council in 1962, and served through 1968. The last term from 66-68 as council president.