

Coastal DDGER Martha Binette was born and raised in Westbrook, graduating from Westbrook High School. She later graduated from *Plus Gray's School of Business* with a degree in Business, and from *Westbrook College* as a trained CNA/LPN.

Martha married her high school sweetheart Michael in 1970 and they raised four children, 3 boys and one girl, in Westbrook. Two of my kids are still in Maine, one's in Massachusetts and one in Virginia, and she now also has six grandsons and one granddaughter. Martha lost her husband in a 1999 vehicle crash. She moved to her current Scarborough home in 2019.

In addition to raising her family through the 70's and 80's, Martha also spent time working in the Westbrook High School's Teen Parenting Center, working with the teen parents and their children and from 1996 to 2015 she also ran a home daycare for newborns to school age children. Martha works part time doing home care for *Comfort Keepers* doing private duty care mostly for the elderly.

She enjoys travel abroad and has been to Italy a few times, Aruba many times, and many cruises to the Caribbean. Her most memorable trip though was to England in 2023, to see her third son perform with his high school's music department that gave performances in some private schools and chapels in Bath, Liverpool and London. While there she took the opportunity to visit several castles, Westminster Abby, Parliament, and their hotel was only two blocks from Buckingham Palace.

She has been a member of the Portland Elks for 18 years. During those years she's been a trustee, served in all the knight chairs, and has been Exalted Ruler four times.

She enjoys committee work as well, having at various times chaired Portland's Scholarship, Lodge Activities and Veterans committees. She's coordinated the *Veterans' Stand Down* for the last few years and also serve on the lodge MCCP committee and works in their Bingo kitchen every Tuesday and pitches in on many other little chores about the Lodge.