

VETERANS OF VIETNAM WAR

Middletown, Connecticut

April 2004 Volume XXXI

www.vietnamvetsmiddletownct.org

**PO Box 2113
Middletown, CT 06457-2113
“People Who Care”**

Meetings are to be held on the first
Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Put these items on your “TO
DO” in 2004 list.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR **April MEETING**

This Months Meeting is on
Tuesday, April 6, 2004 at
7:00 P.M. at the American
Legion Hall in Middletown.
(Bernie O'Rourke Drive).
This is the regular Monthly
Meeting (**refreshments =
Pizza Night with Beer=Half
Price**). I goofed last month!
**LUKE: GET SOME NEW
BEER!** Come to the meeting
and renew friendships.
Members and potential
members welcome.

To do:
**CONNECTICUT VETERANS
CEMETERY,
BOW LANE, MIDDLETOWN**
The Vietnam Veterans will be
placing flags on the
headstones at the Veteran's
Cemetery for Memorial Day.
**Date and Time is Friday
May 28, 2004 at 4:00 p.m.**
Please plan on helping.

To do:
FLAG Removal in 2004
**Date and Time is Tuesday
June 1, 2004 at 4:00 p.m.**
Please plan on helping.

**2004 Memorial Day Parade
by the United Veterans**

Council of Middletown.

Date and time is MONDAY,
MAY 31, 2004. Staging at
10:00 a.m. Steps off at 10:30
All Veterans are requested to
gather on the Washington
Street GREEN at the
Vietnam/Korea Monument at
9:00 a.m. for the traditional
wreath laying and short walk
to the parade staging area.
Hopefully, the Parents of LCpl
Tommy Fritsch (POW_MIA
5/10/68) will be joining us in
the parade again this year.
Keynote Speaker is Michael
Steadman, OIC of Marine for
Life Program

To do:
**8th Annual (2004) Golf
Tournament 06/03/2004**
The Thomas Fritsch Golf
Tournament will be held on
Thursday, June 3rd 2004 at
the Portland Golf Course.
We're looking for a good
turnout again this year. We'll
be looking for TEE Sponsors,
Volunteers, prizes, raffle
items; Bottles of Cheer, Gift
Certificates, Dinner for 2, etc.)
**Tee sponsors, prizes and
donations are everyone's
responsibility.**
This IS a group effort!
Volunteers are needed for the
“Hole in One” holes and
manning the prizes/raffle
items, selling tickets and
cheering on the players as
they golf.

Committee Members:

Jack Mayoros 860-347-8843
Rich Couture 203-238-8979
Joe Labbadia 860-344-3287
Jim Marshall 860-704-0264
Barry Moyer 860-267-2950
Vin Silvestro 860-345-2334
Patricia Fritsch 860-267-0593

GOLF COMMITTEE:

**Meeting: Tuesday April
13th, 2004 – 6:00 p.m. at
Jack's.**

Scholarship 2004

Scholarship applications for
2004 can be obtained from
Past Comm. Jack Mayoros.
Call him at (860) 347-8843.
Applications must be returned
postmarked by May 15th to
the Chapter.

To do:
Dues Reminder
Dues are payable at the
beginning of the year. \$12.00
per year or \$100.00 for life
membership.

LOOK AT THE ADDRESS
on this mailer, beside your
name will be branch of
service and some dates. The
first date is year you joined
and the second date is the
last year you paid up your
dues. If tardy, read below for
“Welcome Back” program.

To do:
Looking for NEW
MEMBERS

If you know anyone who would like to join the chapter let me know and the Commander will forward an application. Membership is open to any Vietnam-era vet. \$15.00 initially, includes first year's dues and then just \$12.00 per year. **One last time! We are doing a "Welcome Back" program for former members.** Pay \$12.00 dues for 2004 and you will become active again.

To Do:

STAND DOWN '2004' is scheduled for Friday, September 17th, from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on the Rocky Hill campus. This one day event, sponsored by the CT Dept. of Veterans Affairs is put on to help the homeless veterans of the state with a variety of benefits which include medical help, legal assistance and clothing, etc.

For the Good of the Chapter:

We are asking members to come forward with suggestions for fundraisers or ideas for events that may be of interest for the chapter. Come to a meeting & share.

2005 marks the 20th anniversary of the chapter. Party anyone? The Veterans of the Vietnam War, Middletown Inc. have a new WEBSITE:
www.vietnamvetsmiddletownct.org

ownct.org Please take a few minutes of your time to "ADD IT TO YOUR FAVORITES", become familiar with its content and related links. The wife of Life Member Bob Natrass, Julie, is our webmaster. We want your E-mail: The chapter would like all members who have a computer and consequently an email address to forward their address to the committee through the WEBMASTER@vietnamvetsmiddletownct.org

NOTE:

Early Deaths in Vietnam Documented: In reference to first casualties in Vietnam, recommended reading is "Vietnam Military Lore". Chapters 3 through 6 discuss deaths in the 1950s. Chapter 1 covers Col. A. Peter Dewey, killed by the Viet Minh on September 25, 1945.

Things to Remember

Don't forget. Mother's Day is May 9, 2004. Only a month away!

Attendance

There were a total of 17 members to show up at the March regular business meeting. A couple of old welcome??? faces in the crowd make life a little more interesting. Sorry, I didn't mean to imply you were old! Keep coming back and bring another member (new member) with you next time. Dean B was a little late and didn't notice us in the Sports

Museum. Dean, Pizza is this month!

10 Worst Human Fears in the USA

1. Speaking before a group
2. Heights
3. Insects and Bugs
4. Financial problems
5. Deep water
6. Sickness
7. Death
8. Flying
9. Loneliness
10. Dogs

according to "The People's Almanac Presents the Book of Lists"

Members Ill or In Distress

Dave Wibby has been located in West Haven. A newsletter is going his way this month

Rick Thompson was hospitalized last month with a bad ticker. Doing better today

Ron Delisle is recovering from a total Knee replacement.

Remember to keep good thoughts for these guys!

Chapter Jackets; Jackets are available at "ANYTHING GOES" in Durham, CT Call Rose Marie at 860-349-3315

To do:

May 2004 meeting will be on Tuesday 5/04/2004.

Regular business meeting. 7:00 p.m.

Members and potential members welcome!

The blooming of the cherry trees around the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C. has come to symbolize the natural beauty of our nation's capital city. Hundreds of thousands of city residents and visitors from across the nation and around the world come here to witness the spectacle, hoping that the trees will be at the peak of bloom for the Cherry Blossom Festival, Washington, D.C.'s rite of spring.

The famous trees, a gift from Japan in 1912, signal the coming of Spring with an explosion of life and color surrounding the [Jefferson Memorial](#) on the Tidal Basin in a sea of pale pink and white. Exactly when the buds will open is not an easy question to answer, but the National Park Service Regional Horticulturalist Robert DeFeo has been fairly accurate in his forecasts over the past several years.

The [history of the cherry trees](#) dates to 1912 when the original trees were planted by First Lady Mrs. William Howard Taft and the Vicountess Chinda of Japan.

Today more than 3,700 cherry trees of several [varieties](#) grow around the Tidal Basin, at East Potomac Park, and on the [Washington Monument](#) Grounds. Most trees are the [Yoshino variety](#), Japan's favorite cultivated cherry tree that was developed about 1870 and presented as a gift in 1912. They encircle the Tidal Basin and can also be seen in abundance on the Monument grounds.

Facts in Brief

In Honor Of POW★MIAs • Lest We Forget The Fighting Man's Code of Conduct

- Article I: I am an American fighting in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.
- Article II: I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command, I will never surrender the members of my command while they still have the means to resist.
- Article III: If I am captured, I will continue to resist by all means available. I will make every effort to escape and aid others to escape. I will accept neither parole nor special favors from the enemy.
- Article IV: If I become a prisoner of war, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no information nor take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades. If I am senior, I will take command. If not, I will obey the lawful orders of those appointed over me and will back them up in every way.
- Article V: When questioned, should I become a prisoner of war, I am required to give name, rank, service number and date of birth. I will evade answering further questions to the utmost of my ability. I will make no oral or written statements disloyal to my country and its allies or harmful to their cause.
- Article VI: I will never forget that I am an American, fighting for freedom, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my god and the United States of America.

NEW SONG

We can give millions to charity and have no charity. We can read all the poetry in the library and not be able to appreciate a single poetic thought. We can look at every great painting in the world and find no beauty.

If there is emotional and spiritual poverty in our lives, the problem isn't *out there, it's in here*. Blaming early disadvantage is no good. Many advantaged people are in the same boat as we are. And many joyful souls, burdened by horrendous disadvantages we'd never swap for, find beauty and delight everywhere they look.

What's the difference? The world they live in is the same as ours, yet their involvement in it is different. ***They stopped hoping to hear a good song and started singing one.*** They are in touch with their own specialness, which in turn connects them to all the specialness around them. We already have everything we need to be joyful. The quality of what passes between the world and ourselves is a matter of personal growth.

This years Golf Tournament is: **Thursday, June 3, 2004.** SAVE THIS DATE!

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MAIL TO:
