

VETERANS OF VIETNAM WAR

PO Box 2113
Middletown, CT 06457-2113
"People Who Care"
20th ANNIVERSARY YEAR,
Oct. 1985 to Oct. 2005

Middletown, Connecticut
April 2005 Volume XX-VI
www.vietnamvetsmiddletownct.org

**Meetings are held first
Tuesday of each month @
7:00 p.m. American Legion
Hall in Middletown.** (Bernie
O'Rourke Drive, off RT 66.)

**Get involved with the
Veterans of Vietnam War!**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April meeting

This Months Meeting is on
**Tuesday, April 5, 2005 at
7:00 P.M.** at the American
Legion Hall.

Refreshments available..
Come to the meeting and
renew friendships.

Agenda Items:

20th ANNIVERSARY PARTY,
NOV. 2005 D.C. trip to 'THE
WALL', Golf Tournament &
Scholarship Info

NEEDED SOON:

For the Good of the Chapter:

2005 marks the 20th
anniversary of the chapter.
The committee is working
hard but needs help in
planning for the October 2005
celebration.

V V W WEBSITE INFO:

www.vietnamvetsmiddletownct.org

**We need your E-mail
address: Send it to the
Chapter at WEBMASTER**

@vietnamvetsmiddletownct.org

To do: 2005 Dues Reminder

Dues are payable at the
beginning of the year. .

NEW MEMBERS Welcomed

If you know anyone who
would like to join the chapter,
bring them to a meeting or let
us know and the Secretary
will send an application.
Membership is open to any
Vietnam-era vet. \$15.00
initially, includes first years
dues and then just \$12.00 per
year or \$100.00 for life
membership.

GOLF COMMITTEE: 2005!

**9th Annual Golf
Tournament, June 2, 2005**

**The 2nd GOLF Committee
meeting is Wednesday
April 6, 2005 at 6:00 p.m..**

Anyone interested in helping
is welcome to join the
committee.

Call 860-347-8843

The Thomas Fritsch Golf
Tournament will be held on
Thursday, June 2nd 2005 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.

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

Scholarship 2005

Scholarship applications for
2005 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.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing
was a SUCCESS . A response
from Captain Miller says that we
collected \$726.00 that day in
December. We're good!

**To do: The May meeting
will be on Tuesday May 3,
2005.**

Regular business meeting.
7:00 p.m. Members and
potential members welcome!

The following letters will be presented at the April meeting for members to sign. After signing, we will send them to Senators Christopher Dodd and Joseph Lieberman, Representatives John Larson, Robert Simmons, Rosa DeLauro, Christopher Shays and Nancy Johnson

To the Honorable Senators and Congressional Representatives of the State of Connecticut:

Subject: Department of Veterans Affairs Budget

Reference: The Wall Street Journal, January 25, 2005

We the undersigned, being concerned that the budget of the Department of Veterans is under consideration to be cut by 6.2 billion dollars in the next ten years and that medical benefits for veterans will be cut, as reported in the referenced newspaper, hereby petition you.

We ask you to exercise your influence and voting power to ensure that current benefits levels are maintained and provide for needed increases for our veterans.

Many have given a portion of their lives serving our country and now as they age are being denied the help that they need. Let us not forget the debt that we owe these men and women. Remember that those who are fighting to protect this country today will be veterans tomorrow.

Freedom is not cheap.

Respectfully submitted,

Commander Joseph Labbadia:

Vice Commander Paul Fazzino:

Treasurer John Mayoros:

Secretary Richard Couture:

Members:

Please copy the letter and mail it or email it to your Representative or Congressman.

This is written by a Navy Commander at a port in Kuwait... No commentary needed, the 3- minute read below says more than a 20- page article could about our warriors and the constitution of our men.

Where do we get such men? *****"They are so damn young"

I was going to the gym tonight (really just a huge tent with weights and treadmills), and we had heard that one of the MEUs (Marine Exp Units) that had come out of service in the "triangle" was redeploying (leaving country). We saw their convoy roll in to the Kuwait Naval Base as the desert sun was setting.

I have never seen anything like this. Trucks and humvees that looked like they had just come through a shredder. Their equipment was full of shrapnel blast holes, and missing entire major pieces that you could tell had been blasted by IEDs. The! se kids looked bad too! I mean, sunken eyes, thin as rails, and that 1000-yd. stare they talk about after direct combat. Made me pretty damn embarrassed to be a "rear area warrior".

All people could do was stop in their tracks and stare... and feel like me...like I wanted to bow my head in reverence. A Marine Captain stationed with me, was standing next to me, also headed to the gym. He said, "Part of 1st Brigade Combat Team, 8th Marines, sir. Took the heaviest losses of any single unit up north as part of Task Force Danger, sir."

As the convoy rolled up, all of us watching just slowly crept toward these kids as they dismounted the Hummers and 5-tons. Of course, we were all shiny and clean compared to these warriors. These kids looked like they had just crawled from Iraq. I had my security badge and id around my neck, and started to help them unload some of their duffle bags.

A crusty Gunny came up to me and said "sir, you don't have to do that..."I said, "Gunny... yes I do..." They all looked like they were in high school, or younger!! All held themselves sharply and confident, despite the extreme fatigue you could tell they had endured. "You guys out of the triangle?" I asked. "Yes, sir". 14 months, and twice into the grinder, sir" (both fights for Fallujah).

All I could do was throw my arm around their shoulders and say "thanks Marine, for taking the fight to the bad guys...we love you man".

I looked at these young kids, not one of them complaining or showing signs of anything but focus, and good humor. 'Sir, they got ice cream at the DFAC, sir?" "I haven't had real ice cream since we got here..." They continued to unload.! .. and after I had done my handshakes and shoulder hugs, the Captain and I looked at each other ...

They want ice cream, we'll get them ice cream. You see, a squid O-5 and a focused Marine O-3 can get just about anything, even if the mess is closed. Needless to say, we raided the closed DFAC (mess tent), much to the chagrin of one very pissed off Mess Sergeant and grabbed boxes of ice cream sandwiches (as many as we could carry), and hustled back to the convoy. I felt like Santa Claus. "Thank you, sir.." again and again from each trooper, as we tossed up the bars to the guys in the trucks. I'm thinking', "Son, what the hell are you thanking me for? I can't thank you enough."

And they are so damned young ... I will sleep well, knowing they are watching my back tonight."

GOD BLESS THE USA & OUR WARRIORS IN HARMS WAY

Please pray on this day, and every day, for our Armed Forces standing in harm's way around the world in defense of our liberty, and for the families awaiting their safe return. **Semper Fi,**

“The American, by nature, is optimistic. He is experimental, an inventor and a builder who builds best when called upon to build greatly.

John F. Kennedy (1917 - 1963)

Bogey

A husband reluctantly agreed to play in the couples' alternate shot tournament at his club. He teed off on the first hole, a par four, and blistered a drive 300 yards down the middle of the fairway. Upon reaching the ball, the husband said to his wife "Just hit it toward the green, anywhere around there will be fine." The wife proceeded to shank the ball deep into the woods. Undaunted, the husband said "That's OK, Sweetheart" and spent the full five minutes looking for the ball. He found it just in time, but in a horrible position. He played the shot of his life to get the ball within two feet of the hole. He told his wife to knock the ball in. His wife then proceeded to knock the ball off the green and into a bunker. Still maintaining composure, the husband summoned all of his skill and holed the shot from the bunker. He took the ball out of the cup and while walking off the green, put his arm around his wife and calmly said, "Honey, that was a bogey, and that's OK, but I think we can do better on the next hole."

To which she replied:

"Listen a__hole, don't bitch at me, only 2 of those 5 shots were mine."

Perhaps one day all people, in accord, will finally learn that to know peace, one must first love peace; and to love peace, one must first love. **Eli Takesian**

This years tournament is: **Thursday, June 2, 2005.** SAVE THAT DATE!

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STAMP

MAIL TO:
