



## Veterans of the Vietnam War

P.O. Box 2113, Middletown, Connecticut 06457-2113



### "PEOPLE WHO CARE"

Volume 20, Issue 5

NEWSLETTER

May 2006

Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month 7:00 p.m. at the American Legion Hall in Middletown. (Bernie O'Rourke Drive, off RT. 66.) Get involved and come to the meeting.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

#### May meeting

This Month's meeting is on Tuesday, May 2, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the American Legion Hall. This is the regular Monthly Meeting. Come to the meeting and renew friendships. Members and potential members welcome.

#### Scholarship 2006

Scholarship applications for 2006 can be obtained from Past Commander, Jack Mayoros. Call him at (860) 347-8843.

Applications must be returned postmarked by May 15<sup>th</sup> to the Chapter.

### GOLF TOURNAMENT

#### 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament, June 8, 2006

The Thomas Fritsch Golf Tournament will be held on Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup> 2006 at the Portland Golf Course. We're looking for a good turnout again this year. We will 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.

TEE Sponsors needed for the Golf Tournament. Cost is \$100.00 each.

Members should contact those businesses that they deal with on a daily basis for Raffle items. Car Washes, Oil Changes, Haircuts, Liquor Stores, Lawn Care, etc.

If you want to volunteer to help out at the Tournament, please contact Joe Labbadia at 860-344-3242. Please leave your name, phone number, and a message if he is not there.

### HONORARY MEMBER

The Chapter is pleased to correct something that has been overlooked and announces that Patricia Fritsch is an Honorary Member of the Middletown Vietnam Veterans.

### DUES

It's still not too late to send in your Dues for 2006.

**Make checks out to:**

**VVW Middletown**

**Mail to:**

**VVW MIDDLETOWN**  
**P.O. BOX 2113**  
**MIDDLETOWN, CT.**  
**06457-2113**

There are only 14 Members left who still owe their dues.

## Must Sell



I have moved to a new place and I no longer have to mow my lawn. I will sacrifice my pride and joy to an owner who enjoys the finer things in life. Great turning radius for the lawns with a lot of trees. Good gas mileage, and I used to be able to do my whole lawn before the beer got warm. Direct all inquiries to: Luke Mailhot @ P.O. Box 2113, Middletown, CT. 06457-2113 or at the May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

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### SUPPORT OUR TROUPS

Charlie Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 25<sup>th</sup> Marines from Connecticut was deployed to Iraq recently. **These Marines are the group that escorted Tommy Fritsch every step of his funeral.**

#### Needs of the Marines

(from 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Granger)

You have all been great about sending stuff to take care of your Marines. It is nearly impossible to give you an exact number on any one item we need here as we are trying to control a city and my few marines are spread all over it at any given time. It's not Hartford

size or style, as you have seen from pictures; it would be more like Enfield size with a population of about 300,000 and growing. I never really have all the Marines together at any one time to sit and talk anymore so if you can just send a little of everything we list you all won't go broke and my Marines will get a little something from home. They usually come in, get sleep, grab some health and comfort items, and go back out to give you an idea. I mention Enfield as I live there and love the town.

What we can use

1. Magazines

(Continued next Page)

**Needs of the Marines** (Cont)

2. Pillows (they are a very hot commodity here.) I will try to get a count. It can be little, big, it doesn't matter. At least your neck doesn't hurt when you wake up that way.

3. Some type of glasses cleaner. As our ballistic goggles get covered in sweat and salt and get hard to see out of.

4. Anything we can spray on a mattress to get rid of fleas, bed bugs or whatever it is that is biting us. They are definitely on the mattresses, not mosquito's though.

5. Insect repellent yes, as the mosquito's are picking up on us at the rapid rate (They have decided to join with the rats). We have a lot of standing sewage water here. Adds to the scenery though. Like having lakes around our hotel.

6. Baby wipes. Beats the issued sandpaper and leaves the skin when in a port-a-john.

7. Disposable razors or replacements. Razors don't last long here due to all the dirt on us.

8. 3x5 American Flags

9. Hand sanitizer. At least we try to be clean.

10. Golds Bond powder. This is like putting a band aid on the smell, But it does add a pleasantness to the stench.

11. Q-tips. Ears full of sand is interesting to say the least. We go through these daily.

12 AA batteries. We actually have a lot of gear for night Patrols that run on these and demand exceeds supply. They are getting a lot out here but not enough.

13. If some one can come up with one set of boxing gloves and hand wraps. We have a sea bag that the Marines punch on from time to time to release frustration but you can't really let loose for fear of breaking hands. It would be appreciated.

I have been receiving e-mails almost daily from 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Granger on what has been going on and what they are experiencing. It is not a pleasant situation for them at all, but somehow He and his men are keeping a positive attitude and sense of humor through all this.

**Our Chapter is going to be collecting any and all items needed by these men, to be shipped over to them, so their time spent away from home can be as comfortable as possible. They did a great service for us for Tommy's Funeral and it is a way that we can show them our thanks and support.**

Please bring any items to be sent to them to our next meetings, May or June, so we can get them boxed and shipped ASAP.

We have a MOTO at the top of our newsletter:

**"PEOPLE WHO CARE"**

Let's show them that we mean what we say.

**UPDATE:** April 22, 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Granger's e-mail;

I will make an assessment of how things went with all of the boxes yesterday and let you know. A few favorites are listed. With the tooth brushes and tooth paste we have received and what Mary Ann has on the way we will not need any more of that. Soap is good for a month it would appear. No more playing cards needed. Good on books for a while. Tissues good for a month. We should have the computers up and running by tomorrow as it takes a little while for the computers guys to update and convert to gov't. Plus they are doing me a favor so can't be to pushy.

Chips

Magazines

Cookies

Q-tips

|                            |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Ramen Noodles              | Foot powder                   |
| Beef jerky                 | Hand sanitizer                |
| Slim Jims                  | Baby Wipes / sanitizing wipes |
| Pillows                    | Listerine mouth wash          |
| Stick ups / air fresheners |                               |

We have received all of these so they are shippable and do not leak. Knock on wood.

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1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Granger also sent this along in his e-mail and it made me think back 38 plus years ago and it will probably make you think back.

### **The Crack**

No doubt you may have heard the crack of a rifle or hand gun in your life time. You may have shot one with the scouts or on a farm. You may have even heard a car back fire and thought it was a shot. But have you ever heard a shot on the other end? See a gun makes a distinct crack as it shoots the projectile out of the barrel. If measured it could be said that the bullet reaches max speed at the same time the gasses release from the end of the barrel. There is that crack all in one, the pin hitting the primer, exploding into powder, which sends gasses down a contained tube, know as the barrel. The gas must go forward, going faster and faster, until it reaches the end of the barrel where it can go in any direction. Depending on the charge and type of round it could be traveling 3100 feet per second. That is what mine travels at, as it leaves my barrel. But what happens on the other end? That is what we hear. For if it is near you, when it goes by you, there is a distinct second crack. The thing is, it has to be very near you to hear it. A few too many yards left or right and you won't hear it crack a second time. It is when you hear that second crack, that your heart skips a beat, you take mental note of your body to see if something feels different, and you run for cover like you never ran before. For you know someone has their sites on you. You take cover, thank the lord, and return fire, for you have just made it through another day.

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### **OTHER AREA NEWS**

St. Ann's Cares, a committee of St. Ann's Social Justice Committee, has for eleven (11) years, rehabilitated shelters in the Hartford area and homes of the needy in the Farmington Valley. This year the volunteers have taken on 3 projects and one of the projects is the Connecticut State Veterans Home in Rocky Hill. The two other projects were the V-US Bloomfield Retreat House, and the Immaculate Conception Shelter.

On May 6th and 7th, of this year, after 9 months of planning, teams composed of local citizens and Connecticut's Veterans from throughout the state, will descend on the State of Connecticut Veterans Home in Rocky Hill to perform once again "the miracle" which is possible through a St Ann's Cares program. On that Saturday and Sunday, busloads of t-shirted volunteers will sweep through the four facilities cleaning and painting two floors each of 4 buildings containing bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchens, staff offices and utility rooms.

Inside work will include: Replacement of all windows and storm doors. Kitchens and bathrooms will be remodeled, and all rooms will be cleaned, painted and furnished through donations.

Outside work will include: Trees and bushes will be planted and trimmed. The land will be landscaped throughout, a playscape for visiting children and an outdoor veteran sitting area built through donations. Two roofs will be resingled.

Work will start two weeks prior by "special preparation teams" and could extend up to three weeks after by "finishing teams" that work random days until completion. Sign-up will take place immediately up to May 6<sup>th</sup> with all signed up volunteers reporting for registration at the site. Food and liquid will be provided. Transportation will be provided from St Ann Church in Avon, CT.

For more information call the **Program Director: Raymond Juros, 860-674-9926**, or e-mail to [WeCareForVets@comcast.net](mailto:WeCareForVets@comcast.net)

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## **MONTH OF MAY**

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

This Month's meeting is on  
**Tuesday, May 2, 2006 at 7:00  
p.m.**

### **MOTHER'S DAY**

Mother's Day is Sunday, May  
14<sup>th</sup>. **DON'T FORGET  
MOM!**

### **MEMORIAL DAY**

Parade is Monday, May  
29<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. Vietnam  
Vets and friends meet on  
the Vet's Green,  
Washington St. at 9 am  
for a brief ceremony and  
wreath presentation at  
the Vietnam monument.

Our group puts out the  
flags on Friday, this

year, **May 26<sup>th</sup>** starting  
at around **4PM** and  
staying until they are  
all done. Last year it  
was around six by the  
time we finished.  
We are looking for help  
from anyone who would  
like to come out.

We are looking into getting  
some help from a local Boy  
Scout troop that is looking for  
a community activity to  
participate in.

The staging area for Members  
to gather for the Parade will be  
on Rome Ave. around 10:00  
a.m. after the wreath  
ceremony.

Since this is our 20<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary year, let's have a  
great turnout to show the City  
who we are.

### **MEMBERS ILL OR DISTRESSED**

Word had been received that  
**Leon Brown** was having some  
old shrapnel removed from his  
leg on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Past Commander, **Jack  
Mayoros** is scheduled to have  
back surgery on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

The Chapter sends their  
thoughts and prayers to them  
for a quick and speedy  
recovery from their  
procedures.

Anyone wishing to send a get  
well card to them can address  
them to **P.O. Box 2113** and we  
will see that they receive them.  
Or you can send an e-mail  
message to them at: [VVW-  
Middletown@hotmail.com](mailto:VVW-Middletown@hotmail.com)  
and it will be given to them.

We now have a storage facility and would like to get all of our belongings in one location. If you have **Old Records, Flags, T Shirts, Sweat Shirts, Caps**, or anything belonging to the chapter, bring it to the next meeting or contact the Commander for pick up.

It has also been mentioned about adding a page of items For Sale or Items Wanted to the newsletter. Please give this some thought and get word back to us at the next meeting or by using the e-mail address of [VVW-Middletown@hotmail.com](mailto:VVW-Middletown@hotmail.com) to let us know what you think.

You can also use this e-mail address ([VVW-Middletown@hotmail.com](mailto:VVW-Middletown@hotmail.com)) to send in items that you want to see in the newsletter or even pictures of what you look like now if you have moved away.

**See you at the next meeting, May 2, 2006  
7:00 p.m.**

**VETERANS of the VIETNAM WAR, Middletown**  
**P.O. Box 2113**  
**Middletown, CT. 06457-2113**  
[www.vietnamvetsmiddletownct.org](http://www.vietnamvetsmiddletownct.org)

**MAIL TO:**

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