



Veterans of the Vietnam War

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



"PEOPLE WHO CARE"

Volume 20, Issue 10

NEWSLETTER

October 2006

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. @ the Legion Hall.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October Meeting

This Month's Meeting is on Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the American Legion Hall in Middletown. (Bernie O'Rourke Drive)

CHAPTER NEWS

As of September 2006, we have a total membership of 84. 30 Regular members, 44 Life members, and 10 Honorary members.

Congratulations to Calvin Hilton on becoming a Life Member.

This now brings up that dreaded issue that comes around each and every year.

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

Make Checks out to:
VVW MIDDLETOWN

Mail Checks to:
VVW MIDDLETOWN
P.O. BOX 2113
MIDDLETOWN, CT.
06457-2113

We are still waiting for the final tally on the 10th Annual Thomas W. Fritsch Tournament. Two more bills need to be received for expenses before we can total everything up.

We also need help in locating a box of mugs that were misplaced the morning of the tournament. If you participated in the tournament and remember seeing these lying around, please contact Jack Mayoros or Joe Labbadia.

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

Thank you notes were received from Katie Castelli and Nicole Dube. These two young ladies were the

recipients of our Chapter Scholarships.

Unfinished Business

Our plaque of Past Commanders will be taken to Hartford to be corrected and updated. The following names and dates will be corrected and/or added:

Joe Labbadia 10/85 thru 12/86
Joe Labbadia 01/87 thru 12/87
Jack Mayoros 01/88 thru 12/88
Jack Mayoros 01/89 thru 12/89
Jack Garner 01/90 thru 12/90
Al San Souci 01/91 thru 12/91
Al San Souci 01/92 thru 12/92
Dean Buden 01/93 thru 12/93
Dean Buden 01/94 thru 12/94
Eric Tyler 01/95 thru 04/95*
Tom Pitruzzello 05/95 thru 07/95*
Marty Reardon 08/95 thru 12/95*
Marty Reardon 01/96 thru 12/96
Jack Mayoros 01/97 thru 12/97
Jack Mayoros 01/98 thru 12/98
Jack Mayoros 01/99 thru 12/99
Jack Mayoros 01/00 thru 12/00
Jack Mayoros 01/01 thru 12/01
Marty Reardon 01/02 thru 12/02
Marty Reardon 01/03 thru 12/03
Frank Martini 01/04 thru 12/04
Joe Labbadia 01/05 thru 12/05
Joe Labbadia 01/06

*denotes partial year

(cont. next page)

(unfinished business cont.)

Xmas Party:

We will be discussing the possibility of having a Xmas party this year. (I didn't want the ACLU getting mad at me for saying "Christmas" party) **The hell with the ACLU...** The **Christmas party** is tentatively set for December 15, 2006 at the American Legion Hall.

If enough interest is shown at the meeting about having a Christmas party, then a committee will be formed to go ahead and make the plans for December 15th. However, if only a few members are there to discuss it, then we will probably not have one this year due to lack of interest.

Election of Officers:

All positions are open. Anyone wishing to run, please submit your name. A nomination Chairperson will be named to gather together a list of people for positions. Voting will take place at the November 7th meeting, appropriately on Election Day.

CT. Vets Medal

Those of you receiving this news letter via regular mail will find an application and

instructions on how to obtain the Connecticut Veterans Wartime Service Medal. Those who receive this newsletter via e-mail, click on the link to be connected to the CT. Department of Veterans' Affairs web page for the application and instructions.

www.ct.gov/ctva/cwp/view.asp?a=1992&q=313194

Good of the Chapter

A donation to the ALS Walk in memory of John Daniele was made by the Chapter.

V V W Website

The Veterans of the Vietnam War, Middletown Inc. have a web site.

www.vietnamvetsmiddletownct.org

Please take a few minutes of your time to "ADD IT TO YOUR FAVORITES", and become familiar with its contents. The chapter would like all members who have a computer and consequently an e-mail address to forward their address to the committee through the WEBMASTER at our web site.

Looking for new Members

If you know anyone who would like to join the chapter, let us know and the Commander will forward an application to them.

Membership is open to any Vietnam-era vet.

Members Ill or Distressed

Robert Hicky had abdominal surgery to correct a hernia.

UNRELATED NEWS

Middletown, CT.

A brazen bunch of thieves pulled off one of the most daring robberies in the history of Middletown.

Six men posing as plumbers gained entrance to the Middletown Police Department and spent the whole day removing every toilet in the building. They were able to do this without raising any suspicion due to their uniforms and perfectly crafted ID badges.

Captain Joseph Labbadia, head of the Detective Division is asking for help from the public for any leads. Captain Labbadia said, **"We need all the help we can because at this time we have nothing to go on"**.

NEWS OF INTEREST

Vietnam Veterans of America Applauds Recent Court Decision In Favor of Service Members Who Served in the Offshore Waters of Vietnam

(Washington, D.C.) – “Some of the inequities of the application of presumptive coverage for exposure to Agent Orange have finally been set aside,” said John Rowan, national president of Vietnam Veterans of America. “We need to spread the word about this decision to all Navy veterans who served in the waters offshore of Vietnam and received the Vietnam Service Medal (VSM). This Court decision will allow for an untold number of veterans and their families to receive the compensation and health care they are entitled to, as well as other VA programs,” Rowan said.

On August 16, 2006, the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims rendered a decision in the appeal of *Haas v. Nicholson*. In their 31-page decision, the Court determined the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has been unlawfully denying presumptive disability compensation for exposure to Agent Orange (AO) for service members who served in the waters offshore of Vietnam and earned the VSM.

Numerous veterans who served in Vietnam have been able to qualify for presumptive disability compensation for exposure to AO. Unfortunately the application of presumptive coverage has resulted in many inequities for veterans and their families. An example of this can be seen in the VA’s denials of presumptive service connection to service members who served on boats and ships off the coast of Vietnam. Although these veterans earned and received the VSM, many have had their claims denied by VA for presumptive disability due to AO exposure because they did not step foot on the ground in Vietnam.

“All veterans who served in the waters offshore need to speak with a service representative or service officer as soon as possible to see if they have a viable claim for compensation,” Rowan said. These veterans should also participate in the Agent Orange registry exam. I fully expect the VA will attempt to rescind and revise their interpretation of the law. If you have had a claim denied or have never filed, you must do so before the regulations change again in favor of the VA.”

First Identification of U.S. Soldier Missing in Action from World War I

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing in action from World War I, have been identified and returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

This is the first time the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) has identified a soldier unaccounted for from World War I.

He is Army Pvt. Francis Lupo of Cincinnati, Ohio. He will be buried on Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2006, at Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C.

Representatives from the Army met with Lupo's next-of-kin to explain the recovery and identification process and to coordinate interment with military honors on behalf of the Secretary of the Army.

In 1918, Lupo participated in the combined French-American attack on the Germans near Soissons, France, in what came to be known as the Second Battle of the Marne. Despite heavy Allied losses, this battle has been regarded as a turning point in the war, halting and reversing the final German advances toward Paris.

Lupo, a member of Company E, 18th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, was killed in action during the battle, but his remains were never recovered.

In 2003, while conducting a survey in preparation for a construction project, a French archaeological team discovered human remains and other items a short distance from Soissons. Among the items recovered were a military boot fragment and a wallet bearing Lupo's name. The items were given by the French to U.S. officials for analysis.

Among other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory also used mitochondrial DNA in the identification of Lupo's remains.

**HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE NEXT MEETING
OCTOBER 3RD 7:00p.m.**

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MAIL TO:
