



Veterans of the Vietnam War

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



"PEOPLE WHO CARE"

Volume 22, Issue 4

NEWSLETTER

April 2008

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.)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April meeting

This month's meeting is on **Tuesday, April 1, 2008 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.

Agenda Items:

Golf Tournament, Scholarship Information, Investment options, & Memorial Day plans.

ALSO MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR:

May meeting: May 6, 2008

June meeting: June 3, 2008

Get involved and come to a meeting.

Scholarship 2008

Scholarship applications for 2008 can be obtained from Jack Mayoros. Call him at (860) 347-8843.

Applications must be returned postmarked by May 15th to the Chapter.

DUES

It's still not too late to send in your Dues for 2008.

DRAWING

The name drawn at the March meeting for \$70.00 was Wilma Johnson. Unfortunately, Wilma was unable to attend the meeting. The drawing for the April meeting will be \$80.00. Remember, you must be in attendance at the meeting in order to win.

12th Annual Golf Tournament, June 5, 2008

The **Thomas Fritsch** Golf Tournament will be held on Thursday, June 5th 2008 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.

Anyone interested in playing or if you have a team that would like to join the tournament and have not received a sign up sheet, please contact any of the officers for an application.

CHAPTER PICNIC

The Vietnam Veterans of Middletown will be having a picnic, Saturday May 17, 2008 which will be held after the dedication of the CT. Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Coventry, CT.

Tony Labbadia and his wife have offered to host the chapter picnic.

Food, beverages, & whatever will be provided by the chapter.



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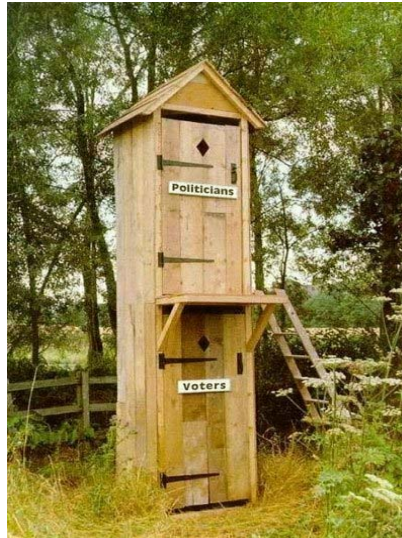


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That's right, this is an election year.

CONNECTICUT VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

Connecticut Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Inc. proudly announced the dedication of the Connecticut Vietnam Veterans Memorial. This memorial is for the 612 Vietnam Veterans who lost their lives from Connecticut.

Concert by Governor's Foot Guard Band, Dignitaries and Veterans Speak, Proceed to the Memorial for unveiling and reading of the 612 names, and the Fallen Warrior ceremony.

The date for these ceremonies will be Saturday, May 17, 2008, 12:30 p.m., Patriots' Park Band Shell, Lake Street, Coventry, CT. Parking available at Patriot's Park & GH Robertson School.

All are welcome

Following the ceremony, our chapter will hold a Family and/or guest picnic at the home of Tony Labbadia and his wife, in Coventry for the rest of the afternoon. Food and beverages will be provided by the chapter. Those interested in attending the picnic are asked to contact Jack @ 860-347-8843, Joe @ 344-3242, or Mike @ 344-0342 so that we can plan enough food for everyone. Please let us know how many people you will be bringing to the picnic.



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From Congressman John Larson:

On March 19th our country marked the fifth anniversary of the start of the War in Iraq. In these five years, our country has tragically lost 4,000 of its best and brightest. Nearly 29,000 have come home wounded. There are mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, wives and husbands, and sons and daughters in every state, every district who are mourning the loss of their loved ones.

The men and women who have fought heroically for our country deserve to be honored and their legacy should be one of positive achievements. As a military, they have done everything that was asked of them and more to bring about peace and change in Iraq.

For decades, America has had the world's preeminent military. But now, I am very concerned about the future of that military as it tries to sustain a sixth year fighting two wars. In the past few months we have started to hear from current and former military officials who are warning of an impending crisis.

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the senior ranking member of our armed forces, Admiral Michael Mullen warned that our military was significantly stressed by current deployments. He said, "the pace of ongoing operations has prevented our forces from fully training for the full spectrum of operations and impacts our ability to be ready to counter future threats."

Before the Iraq War, 80 percent of all Army units and almost 100 percent of active-duty combat units were rated at the highest level of military readiness. They were fully manned, equipped and trained. Today, ***almost all of our active-duty combat units are rated not combat-ready and there is not one Army National Guard unit that is fully combat ready.*** According to Governor Rell, the Connecticut Army National Guard only has 48% of its authorized equipment, with 10 percent of that in possession of soldiers deployed overseas to Afghanistan and Iraq. That means the National Guard could be woefully unprepared to respond to a crisis here at home and across the country.

In order to meet recruitment goals, the Military is accepting more and more recruits they would have disqualified just a few years ago. These recruits may lack a high school diploma, have a previous criminal record, have drug or alcohol problems, or have a health condition. ***We are lowering the standards of who we accept into our military. That is not good for the military and it is not good for our country.***



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Help build CT’s Vietnam Wall Memorial in Coventry. Join them for a fundraising picnic on **Saturday, April 5th, 2008 (rain date Sun. 6th) from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.** at Devitt’s Field, Deep River, CT. 06417. Exit 5 off RT 9, follow signs. Plenty of car & bike parking. RAFFLE PRIZES, ENTERTAINMENT, GOOD FOOD. All proceeds benefit CT Vietnam Memorial Wall. Donation: Adults \$20.00 – under 10 free w/paid adult. Includes an all day picnic & blessing of the bikes.

Contact Joe DiPietro, 860-983-5021 to become a sponsor.

REMEMBER NEXT MEETING IS APRIL 1, 2008

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MAIL TO:
