



**Veterans of the Vietnam War**  
P.O. Box 2113, Middletown, Connecticut 06457-2113



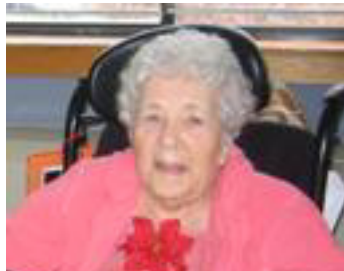
**"PEOPLE WHO CARE"**

Volume 22, Issue 3

NEWSLETTER

March 2008

## IN LOVING MEMORY



Mary (Boutin) Fritsch

**FRITSCH, Mary (Boutin)** Mary (Boutin) Fritsch loving wife of William passed away on Friday (February 8, 2008) surrounded by her family. She was a resident of Cromwell for the past 42 years and previously of Portland. She was born in Canada in 1919. She was a member of St. John R.C. Church in Cromwell for the past 42 years as well. She was very strong in her faith and taught CCD at St. John Church for many years. **She became a Gold Star Mother in 1968 due to the loss of her son, Thomas in Vietnam.** Mary was part of the "Heartwarmers" Senior Citizens Choir as well as the Line Dancers for Senior Citizens in Cromwell. She was Past President of the Emblem Club of Middletown #452. For many years she expressed her creative talent with the art of teaching ceramics to many from the local area for over 10 years. She was also a member of the American Legion Auxiliary of Cromwell and the VFW. She is survived by her husband William, and her children, Gloria and Dean Thomas of California, Bill and Bonnie Fritsch of Texas, Steven and Kimberly Fritsch of Cromwell and Patricia Fritsch of Colchester; her grandchildren, Shawn and Wendy DeFelice of Marlborough, Lauren and Chelsey Fritsch of Cromwell; a great grandchild, Khanur DeFelice of Marlborough; her loving, sister Marge Johansen of East Windsor and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her son, Thomas, USMC, her parents Paul and Roseanna Boutin, two brothers, Gustave, and Gerald and sister, Joan. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the "Thomas W. Fritsch Memorial Scholarship Fund" Veterans of the Vietnam War, P.O. Box 2114, Middletown, CT 06457.

Mary would brighten up any room she walked into with her wonderful smile. She always considered the Middletown Vietnam Veterans as her adopted family just as we claimed her to be our adopted Mother. She set the perfect example to each and every one of us to believe in your faith and never give up hope.

**ALL GAVE SOME  
SOME GAVE ALL  
YOU WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN**



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Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month 7:00 p.m. at the American Legion Hall located on Bernie O'Rourke Drive off RT. 66 in Middletown.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE MEETINGS

**March 4, 2008** at 7:00 p.m. will be the date for our next meeting. Please attend and show your support for our chapter.

This Months meeting will include PIZZA.

You should also mark your calendar for **April 1, 2008** while you're at that calendar. That's when the April meeting will be.

### DUES

Your membership dues are due for the 2008 year.

Dues are still \$12.00 for the year or \$100.00 for Life Membership.

Make Checks out to:  
**V V W MIDDLETOWN**

Mail your Checks to:  
**VVW MIDDLETOWN**

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

### DRAWING

Eric Tyler was the name drawn, but couldn't make the meeting. \$70.00 drawing at the March meeting. You must be there to win.

### GOLF TOURNAMANT

Letters and registration forms have been sent out to all golfers who participated in last year's tournament.

Letters are also ready to be sent out to all the Tee Sponsors who supported us last year and we are waiting for the Tournament Programs to arrive to be included in the mailing.

We are getting a jump on things earlier this year to make it easier for everyone involved.

Anyone interested in joining the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Thomas W. Fritsch golf tournament committee please **attend the March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting**. Volunteers are needed to help make this successful this year as it has been in the past.

We also need volunteers at the golf course to help set up the morning of the tournament and assist at the end picking up signs and helping with distributing prizes to the players and raffle winners.

Please contact us if you are available to help us with the mailings or at the golf course the day of the Tournament.

Remember this is a Chapter sponsored event. Please help.

### LOCAL NEWS

#### **BE SURE YOU LOCK YOUR DOORS AND WINDOWS AT HOME....**

**A man was found dead in his home over the weekend. Detectives at the scene found the man face down in his bathtub.**

**The tub had been filled with milk, sugar and cornflakes. A banana was sticking out of his butt.**

**Middletown Police Captain Joe Labbadia suspects that it might be the work of a cereal killer.**



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#### LITTLE KNOWN NAVAL HISTORY

The USS Constitution (Old Ironsides) as a combat vessel carried 48,600 gallons of fresh water for her crew of 475 officers and men. This was sufficient to last six months of sustained operations at sea. She carried no evaporators (fresh water distillers).

However, let it be noted that according to her log, "On July 27, 1798, the USS Constitution sailed from Boston with a full complement of 475 officers and men, 48,600 gallons of fresh water, 7,400 cannon shot, 11,600 pounds of black powder and 79,400 gallons of rum."

Her mission: "To destroy and harass English shipping." Making Jamaica on 6 October, she took on 826 pounds of flour and 68,300 gallons of rum. Then she headed for the Azores, arriving there 12 November. She provisioned with 550 pounds of beef and 64,300 gallons of Portuguese wine. On 18 November, she set sail for England. In the ensuing days she defeated five British men-of-war and captured and scuttled 12 English merchantmen, salvaging only the rum aboard each. By 26 January, her powder and shot were exhausted.

Nevertheless, and though unarmed, she made a night raid up the Firth of Clyde in Scotland. Her landing party captured a whiskey distillery and transferred 40,000 gallons of single malt Scotch aboard by dawn. Then she headed home.

The USS Constitution arrived in Boston on 20 February 1799, with no cannon shot, no food, no powder, NO rum, NO wine, NO whiskey and 38,600 gallons of stagnant water. Now these guys knew how to drink!

**GO NAVY!**



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**MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup> @ 7:00 P. M.**

**APRIL MEETING IS APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> @ 7:00 P.M.**

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**VETERANS of the VIETNAM WAR, Middletown**  
**P.O. Box 2113**  
**Middletown, CT. 006457-2113**  
[www.vietnamvetsmiddletownct.org](http://www.vietnamvetsmiddletownct.org)

**MAIL TO:**

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