



Veterans of the Vietnam War

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



"PEOPLE WHO CARE"

Volume 24, Issue 8

NEWSLETTER

October 2009

CONGRATULATIONS TO LUKE MAILHOT FOR WINNING THE BIG SEPTEMBER DRAWING

Congratulations go to Luke Mailhot for being the lucky person to win the \$150.00 drawing that was held at our September meeting. It was one of the best attended meetings that we have had in a long time. Luke had his name drawn on the very first ticket that was pulled.

We will continue the drawing each month again starting off at \$50.00 and increasing by \$10.00 each month until we have a winner. Since we are starting over, only one name will be drawn at the meeting of all **PAID UP MEMBERS & LIFE MEMBERS**. You must be present at the meeting to win if your name is drawn. One name will be drawn at each meeting giving the pot a chance to build up again and if it is the decision of the Chapter members, we will again have a drawing next September where names keep getting drawn until there is a winner.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR OCTOBER MEETING

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

This Month's Meeting is on **Tuesday, Oct 6, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.** at the American Legion Hall in Middletown. (Bernie O'Rourke Drive)

REST OF THE YEAR SCHEDULE

October meeting, Oct. 6th
November meeting, Nov. 3rd
Veterans Day Parade Hartford **Sunday, November 8th.**

December meeting, Dec. 1st

Christmas Party, **Dec 4th**
Salvation Army Bell ringing, **Dec 12th**

2010

January meeting, Jan. 5th

February meeting, Feb. 2nd

March meeting, Mar. 2nd

April meeting, April 6th

May meeting, May 4th

May 28th, Place flags at Veterans Cemetery

May 31st. Memorial Day (Washington Green 9:00am, Parade 10:30am, Veterans Cemetery 2:00pm)

June meeting, June 1st



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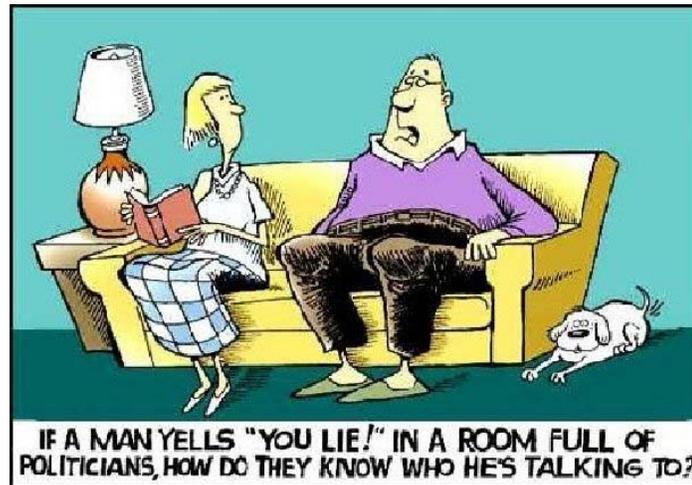


"PEOPLE WHO CARE"

Volume 24, Issue 8
Page 2

NEWSLETTER

October 2009



*Join Us for the
10th Annual
CT Veterans Day Parade!!*

"Honoring Those Who Serve"

**Connecticut Veterans Day Parade
Sunday, November 8, 2009 at 1pm
Downtown Hartford
Trinity - Asylum - Main Streets**

The Connecticut Veterans Day Parade is attended by 25,000 to 40,000 spectators, includes 40 Veterans groups, 25 bands, and over 3,500 marchers from 96 units representing 49 towns. This is the largest Veterans Day Parade in New England, and one of the largest in the country.

The parade includes a Moment of Silence, with a tolling of the Center Church bell and a stirring

rendition of the national anthem. It is a sight to remember!

Please join us! Show your support for the men & women who bravely serve our country.

Five members have already contacted me to let me know that they will join me and ride the parade in the deuce this year. There is still plenty of room for more.

DUES

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

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“PEOPLE WHO CARE”

Volume 24, Issue 8
Page 3

NEWSLETTER

October 2009

Secretary Shinseki Moves to Simplify PTSD Compensation Rules

WASHINGTON – Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is taking steps to assist Veterans seeking compensation for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

“The hidden wounds of war are being addressed vigorously and comprehensively by this administration as we move VA forward in its transformation to the 21st century,” said Secretary Shinseki.

The VA is publishing a proposed regulation today in the *Federal Register* to make it easier for a Veteran to claim service connection for PTSD by reducing the evidence needed if the stressor claimed by a Veteran is related to fear of hostile military or terrorist activity. Comments on the proposed rule will be accepted over the next 60 days. A final regulation will be published after consideration of all comments received.

Under the new rule, VA would not require corroboration of a stressor related to fear of hostile military or terrorist activity if a VA psychiatrist or psychologist confirms that the stressful experience recalled by a Veteran adequately supports a diagnosis of PTSD and the Veteran's symptoms are related to the claimed stressor.

Previously, claims adjudicators were required to corroborate that a non-combat Veteran actually experienced a stressor related to hostile military activity. This rule would simplify the development that is required for these cases.

PTSD is a recognized anxiety disorder that can follow seeing or experiencing an event that involves actual or threatened death or serious injury to which a person responds with intense fear, helplessness or horror, and is not uncommon in war.

Feelings of fear, confusion or anger often subside, but if the feelings don't go away or get worse, a Veteran may have PTSD.



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“PEOPLE WHO CARE”

Volume 24, Issue 7
Page 4

NEWSLETTER

September 2009

A very exciting effort led by Governor M. Jodi Rell

is underway to create a statewide veterans memorial to honor all Connecticut veterans who have served our state and nation in times of peace and conflict. Despite all the tremendous services and benefits Connecticut provides our veterans, we are missing a dignified, central place for citizens to honor our veterans.

The memorial will be located on land adjacent to the Col. Raymond Gates Memorial Cemetery across the street from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs in Rocky Hill. A design has not yet been selected.

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