



## Veterans of the Vietnam War

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



Volume 23, Issue 1

### NEWSLETTER

January 2009

**Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month 7:00 p.m. at the Legion Hall in Middletown. (Bernie O'Rourke Drive, off Rt. 66.)**

### **PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**Tuesday, January 6, 2009**

Veterans of the Vietnam War meeting. 7:00 p.m. @ Legion Hall.

### **DUES**

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

Please send in your dues payments to the Chapter so we can start off the year with a fully paid up membership.

It also makes you eligible for the monthly drawing. You must be a current paid up member to be entered in our monthly drawings.

If your dues are not received by the January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, your name will not be in the drawing. **SEND IT IN !!!**

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The following is a list of the Officers for the 2009 year:

Commander: Mike Rogalsky  
Vice-Cmdr: Joe Labbadia  
Secretary: Frank Martini Jr.  
Treasurer: Jack Mayoros  
3 Year Trustee: Vin Labbadia  
2 Year Trustee: Rich Couture  
1 Year Trustee: Lou Warzecha  
Sgt-at Arms: Larry Riley  
Chaplain: Lou Warzecha

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Life Members 52

Regular Members 22

Honorary Members 9

We would like to welcome a new member to the Chapter starting in 2009.

**Raymond A. Lanoie  
U. S. Army**

### **BELL RINGING FOR THE SALVATION ARMY**

I would like to thank the following people for donating their time on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, ringing the bell for the Salvation Army in the bitter cold:

Frank Martini  
Joe & Peggy Labbadia  
Jack Mayoros  
Brian Dudek  
Vinnie & Bonnina Labbadia  
Larry Riley  
Bill Willinsky  
Vin Silvestro  
Steve Cobb  
Rich Couture  
Patricia Fritsch

These people did not hesitate to give one hour of their time during the busy holiday season.

They really set an example of  
**"PEOPLE WHO CARE"**

It sure would be nice to see some different names on the list next year.

There have been some people who participated this year already saying that they want to ring the bell next year again. These people have been doing this every year for many years.

If you believe that the notice comes out too close to the holidays and you have plans, well,, it's the start of the new year. **MAKE PLANS NOW.** Second Saturday in December.



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### CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year's Christmas Party was a great success. Everyone enjoyed an evening of togetherness, laughter, dancing, and another delicious Prime Rib dinner prepared by our own Chef Tony Labbadia. His dinners are better than you can get at any top shelf high priced restaurant anywhere.

Tony, **THANK YOU** for taking the time to prepare such a wonderful meal for all of us.

It was a good thing that we planned it the night that we did. If we put it off to the following week, everyone would have been shoveling themselves all the way home.

Plans are already in the works for next year's party and because of the planning for another special meal; we will be doing something a little different.

Next year, the notices of the Christmas Party will be going out in October. This may seem a little early, but there will be a cutoff deadline for reservations by the end of November. The reason for this is because **TICKETS WILL HAVE TO BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE FOR THE DINNER**. We will need an accurate count on attendance for the meals. **NO TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE THE NIGHT OF THE DINNER!**

More about this as we get closer to October so you can make plans for the Christmas Party, which will more than likely be the night before the Salvation Army Bell ringing.

### MEMBERS ILL OR DISTRESSED

Word has been received that **LOU WARZECZA** had back surgery the beginning of December.

Everyone in the Chapter wishes you a quick and speedy recovery.

### CHAPTER DRAWING

At the December meeting, \$130.00 was available for the Chapter Drawing.

Bernard Petronis was the lucky name drawn out of all the Life Members and all the **Paid Up Regular Members**.

Unfortunately, he was not in attendance at the meeting and the \$130.00 was placed back in the kitty along with the \$10.00 increase for the next drawing.

The amount that is available now to a **MEMBER IN ATTANDANCE AT THE MEETING (in good standing)** will be **\$140.00**.

**That's right, on January 6, 2009; someone could be going home with \$140.00.**

Now, if this doesn't get some of you out of the house to a meeting, I don't really know what will. Unless, maybe getting a stripper to the meetings might get you to turn out.

If that's the case, I might be able to see if Frank Martini or maybe even Jack Mayoros might be willing to do that for the Chapter. Then again, that might be our downfall.



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Rumor has it that Santa has an opening for next year

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### Bid for Quicker VA Payments Rejected

WASHINGTON - A federal judge rejected a bid by veterans groups to force the Veterans Affairs Department to speed up handling of its disability claims, saying it was not the court's role to impose quicker deadlines. Vietnam Veterans of America and Veterans of Modern Warfare, which represent roughly 60,000 military veterans, had filed the lawsuit asking the VA process initial disability claims within 90 days and resolve appeals within 180 days. If the VA failed to do so, the two groups were seeking interim payments of roughly \$350 a month.

U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton said he was sympathetic to the plight of disabled veterans, many of whom he acknowledged might face unemployment and homelessness in a tightening economy. But Walton said that setting a blanket rule of 90 days for processing claims was a role for Congress and the VA secretary to decide.

Currently, thousands of veterans endure six-month waits for disability benefits and appeals that take years, despite promises by current VA Secretary James Peake and his predecessor, Jim Nicholson, to reduce delays. More recently, Congress passed legislation that sets up a VA pilot program aimed at speeding the processing of disability claims.

Robert Cattanach, an attorney representing veterans, called the VA's delays "egregious and unacceptable." Noting that the backlogs have persisted for nearly a decade, Cattanach argued that the VA has no incentive or requirement to improve its practices without a clear deadline. But government attorney Ron Wiltsie countered that the VA is working to reduce delays and has made some improvement. In recent months, the VA has added dozens of claims processors and now says it has whittled delays from 178 days to about 163 days. The VA should be allowed to continue its work without micromanagement and blanket judgments from a federal judge who has not reviewed the individual cases, Wiltsie said.

Julie Mock, president of the Washington, D.C.-based Veterans of Modern Warfare, said she and other veterans are tired of broken promises and months of delays. "It's time the VA is held accountable," she said. "We're hopeful that President-elect Obama will make drastic changes."



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**HOPE YOUR HOLIDAYS HAVE BEEN ENJOYABLE**

**HELP US START OFF 2009 ON THE RIGHT FOOT,  
ATTEND THE JANUARY 6<sup>TH</sup> MEETING  
BRING A NEW MEMBER**

**LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN THE NEW YEAR!!**

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**MAIL TO:** \_\_\_\_\_

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