



# Veterans of the Vietnam War

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



## "PEOPLE WHO CARE"

NEWSLETTER

Volume 25, Issue 4

February 2010

## **25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHAPTER**

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** **February 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, Feb 2, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.** at the American Legion Hall in Middletown. (Bernie O'Rourke Drive)

### **REST OF THE YEAR SCHEDULE**

#### **2010**

February 10th Bingo @ Vets Home Rocky Hill  
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  
June 3rd Vietnam Veteran's Golf Tournament

\*\* This year the flags are being allowed to remain in place from Memorial Day weekend through the 4th of July weekend. A law was passed last year allowing this to happen. We will have to find out the date that the flags need to be removed after the 4th of July

### **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  
Middletown, CT. 06457-2113

All 2009 memberships expired on December 31, 2009. Effective, on January 1, 2010, all members who haven't yet renewed become "delinquent" and further, if they haven't renewed by February 1, 2010, they are no longer members "in good standing".

The following members dues are outstanding for 2010:

Joe Damiata  
Jim Gaylord  
Ray Lanoie  
David Maher - Owes for 2009 & 2010  
Barry Moyer  
Antonio Rosa  
William Rowe  
Guy Thomas

We appreciate having you as a member and would like to have you continue being a member.

Please bring your dues up to date to help support our chapter.



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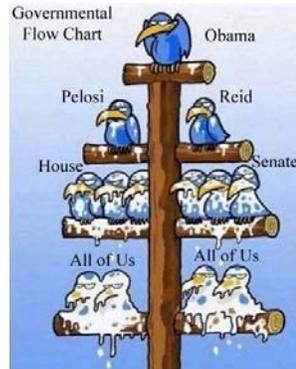
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It makes no difference what your political affiliation is, the names on the top two tiers may change, but the outcome is always the same.

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- **VA will Freeze Increase in Prescription Copayments:** Any increase in Veterans out-of-pocket payments for pharmaceuticals will be delayed until June 30, 2010. This means the department will delay a scheduled \$1 increase – to \$9 – in the copayments facing Veterans for each 30-day supply of medicine for the treatment of conditions not related to military service. During this period, VA will also keep \$960 as the maximum, annual out-of-pocket payments for pharmaceuticals for non-service-related conditions. The yearly maximum out-of-pocket payment was scheduled to increase to \$1,080. There are no copayments associated with the treatment of conditions related to military service.
  - **No Adjustment in COLA for Disability Compensation + Pension Benefits:**  
As a result of negative inflation and the consumer price index going down over the past year the Social Security Administration has announced there will be no COLA this year for Social Security recipients. Under federal law VA's COLAs cannot exceed the Social Security COLAs. Therefore, VA is barred from making a COLA increase for recipients of its benefits.

VA provides compensation and pension benefits to over 3.8 million Veterans and other beneficiaries. Presently, the basic monthly rate of compensation paid to Veterans ranges from \$123 to \$2,673. Annual income limits for disability pension begin at \$11,830 for a Veteran without dependents and increase for Veterans who have dependents, who are housebound, or who need regular aid and attendance.



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The U.S. Marine Corps wrapped nearly seven years in Iraq on Saturday, February 23, 2010, handing over duties to the Army and signaling the beginning of an accelerated withdrawal of American troops as the U.S. turns its focus away from the waning Iraqi war to a growing one in Afghanistan.

The Marines formally handed over control of Sunni-dominated Anbar, Iraq's largest province, to the Army during a ceremony at a base in Ramadi — where some of the fiercest fighting of the war took place.

If all goes as planned, the last remaining Marines will be followed out by tens of thousands of soldiers in the coming months. President Obama has ordered all but 50,000 troops out of the country by Aug. 31, 2010, with most to depart after the March 7 parliamentary election.

The remaining troops will leave by the end of 2011 under a U.S.-Iraqi security pact.

But concerns about the success of the election — and perhaps the loss of hard won security gains that the Marines helped cement — are on the rise because of a growing political dispute that could see more than 500 candidates blacklisted because of suspected ties to previous regime.

The changeover at Ramadi, west of Baghdad, leaves the U.S. Army's 1st Armored Division with responsibility over both Baghdad and Anbar, the vast desert province that stretches from western Baghdad to the borders of Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

The province was once the heart of the deadly Sunni insurgency that erupted after the U.S.-led invasion in 2003. In the battles for control of the cities of Fallujah and Ramadi, the Marines saw some of the most brutal and deadliest fighting of the war.

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Congratulations to Jim Marshall who won last month's drawing. This month's drawing will start over at \$30.00 and will continue to grow each month until someone at the meeting whose name is drawn and whose dues are paid wins.

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On Wednesday, Feb 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., members of our Chapter will be going to the Veterans Home in Rocky Hill to sponsor their BINGO night. Anyone interested in helping out should let us know at the meeting.

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A very special thanks to everyone who froze their bells off in December ringing the bell for the Salvation Army at Stop & Shop in Middletown. During the 8 hours that we were there, we raised \$491.66. Captain Rick Starkey, Corps Officer / Pastor, of the Middletown Salvation Army sends his thanks and his praises to our chapter for supporting them year after year in helping them raise funds to support their activities helping others in need.



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MEETING NIGHT IS TUESDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2010

GOLF COMMITTEE TO BE FORMED AND MEETINGS  
SCHEDULED FOR THIS YEAR'S TOURNAMENT

FEBRUARY 10, 2010 7:00 P.M. BINGO NIGHT FOR THE VETS  
AT THE ROCKY HILL VETERANS HOME

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**VETERANS of the VIETNAM WAR, Middletown**  
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