



Veterans of the Vietnam War

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



“PEOPLE WHO CARE” NEWSLETTER

Volume 25, Issue 9

June 2010

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHAPTER

MARK YOUR CALENDAR **June 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, June 1, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.** at the American Legion Hall in Middletown. (Bernie O’Rourke Drive)

REST OF THE YEAR SCHEDULE

2010

May 28th, Place flags at Veterans Cemetery **
4:00 pm

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

June meeting, June 1st (PIZZA)

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.

July & August no meetings for the Summer

September meeting, September 7th

October meeting, October 5th

November meeting, November 2nd

November D.C. Trip, November 5 - 7

December meeting, December 7th

December BELL RINGING Salvation Army **TBD**

December Christmas Party **TBD**

GOLF TOURNAMENT

14th Annual Golf Tournament, June 3, 2010

The Golf Tournament will be held on Thursday, June 3rd at the Portland Golf Course. We’re looking at a good turnout this year. We are always looking for more **TEE** Sponsors, Volunteers, prizes, raffle items; (Bottles of Cheer, Gift Certificates, Dinner for 2, etc.)

Members should contact the businesses that they deal with on a daily basis for Raffle items. Car Washes, Oil Changes, Haircuts, Liquor Stores, Lawn Care, 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.

We still could use more volunteers to help out at the Tournament.

Anyone who is able to obtain TEE sponsors and/or prizes/donations should contact Jack Mayoros at 860-347-8843 before the June 1st meeting so we can add that information to a list for proper recognition at the Tournament.

Please leave that information on his answering machine. It gets a little hectic on tournament day updating lists while getting things ready.



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Purple Heart House House #54-Rocky Hill Veterans Home Rock Hill, CT

Patriots,

On April, 2010 I, at the urging of Burke Ross of the MOPH, attended a meeting at the Ct Governor’s Office in Hartford, CT. The meeting was chaired by the Governor’s Chief of Staff Lisa Moody and Adam Jemel. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a decision by Governor Rell to renovate 5 vacant houses that are located at the Rocky Hill Veterans Home. The houses are located directly across the street from the main entrance to the Veterans Home. Once renovated and furnished the homes will be made available to service men and woman returning from the Iraq and Afghanistan War. The objective is to help our Veterans by providing transitional housing (3-6 months) while searching for a place to live or find a job etc. The focus would be on single Vets, and not families. Veterans Groups in addition to MOPH that were in attendance included the VFW, American Legion, No Vet Left Behind and a contractor Superior Roofing and Installation of Branford. The State asked that each group adopt a house. All of the representatives agreed that this was an outstanding project and each agreed to sponsor a home. The Department of Public Works (DPW) and Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) will make the necessary exterior and interior repairs. After the homes are renovated we will furnish the houses with all necessary items for our service personnel to live in. DVA will administer the program by identifying those eligible for housing and coordinate occupancy. We asked for and were given House #54. Our plan is call it the Purple Heart House. Because we are a small organization we will team with The Jewish War Veterans. They are also a small group and will join us in this excellent endeavor. Below is a summary of what the renovations will consist of; time table as we know it: anticipated furnishings that will be needed: and our basic plan as to how we will get this done.

The anticipated renovation completion date for the Purple Hear House is July 1, 2010. As you imagine this is fast moving project and one that we will need maximum participation in. The renovations will include the following: New roofs, and siding; all exterior doors to be replaced and new hardware installed; all windows replaced; wood floors to be resurfaced; all walls and ceilings painted; new kitchen cabinets installed; fireplace repaired; bathroom fixtures replaced; basement water leaks repaired and other smaller as needed repairs accomplished.

The house consists of a basement and main floor.

The basement is relatively open and could be used for some recreational activities. This however is not our priority. Laundry hookups are also available in the basement. We already have commitment for a washer and dryer so will not need these items. Also located in the rear of the house is a one car garage.

The main floor consists of the following:

Bedroom #1 is 13’ X 10’6” with 2 windows (Sponsored by the Jewish War Veterans)

Bedroom #2 is 14’6” X 12’ with 2 windows

Bedroom #3 is 9’X 13” 6” with 1 window

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Bathroom is 10' X 9'' and has 1 window

Kitchen is approximately 12' X 11' with 1 double window. There is no room for a dishwasher. Refrigerator size will have to be determined after new cabinets are installed.

Dining Room is 10' X 11' with 2 windows

Living Room is 18' X 17' (Department will Sponsor)

Furniture and other major items need not be new but if used they should be items that you would use in your own home.

We ask that each Chapter support this project in any way they can. Our preference is for each chapter to sponsor a room. The Jewish War veterans have already committed to sponsoring a bedroom and Department of CT will sponsor the Living Room.

Please let me know what your Chapter may provide whether it is financial or sponsorship support for a room. I will schedule a visit to the house as soon as I receive responses from the individual chapters.

Respectfully,
Ronald W. Vedrani
Adjutant, MOPH
Department of Connecticut
(203) 453-1385

Mojave Desert Veteran Memorial: Less than two weeks after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that, for now, the Mojave Desert cross could remain in its location, vandals have torn the memorial to World War I veterans down from its location, leaving only the bolts in Sunrise Rock as evidence of the cross. The incident sparked outrage among supporters of the cross, including The American Legion, which filed crucial amicus (friend-of-the-court) brief in favor of the cross staying put. "Reports that the Mojave Cross was illegally removed overnight are very disturbing," American Legion National Commander Clarence Hill said. "The American Legion expects whoever is responsible for this vile act to be brought to justice. While the memorial has been attacked, the fight will continue to ensure that veteran's memorials will remain sacrosanct." The act also drew scorn from Liberty Institute, which has represented the Legion and other organizations in the fight to keep the cross in its current location. "This is an outrage, akin to desecrating people's graves," said Kelly Shackelford, president/CEO of Liberty Institute. "It's a disgraceful attack on the selfless sacrifice of our veterans. We will not rest until this memorial is re-installed."

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Park workers noticed on 8 MAY that the box that has covered the cross during the ongoing lawsuit had been removed. "When a maintenance team went out on 10 MAY to put the box back up, that's when they discovered the cross had been removed," said Linda Slater, public affairs officer for the Mojave National Preserve. "The bolts are still in the ground, but the cross itself is gone." Park law enforcement is investigating this crime and is asking for the public's assistance. Liberty Institute is offering a \$25,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible. Anyone with information about the theft is asked to call (760) 252-6120. Hill said the latest incident won't stop the Legion from supporting U.S. war memorials. "This was never about one cross," he said. "It's about the right to honor our nation's veterans in a manner in which the overwhelming majority supports. The American Legion strongly believes the public has a right to protect its memorials." [Source: American Legion Online Update 13 May 2010]

WASHINGTON D. C. TRIP

Thank you to everyone who signed up for our upcoming trip to Washington D. C.

We now have a full bus. Only those who have paid in full are guaranteed a seat. Payment is due by October 5, 2010.

If you are interested in being placed on a waiting list because of a cancellation, contact Jack Mayoros at 860-347-8843.

Everyone who is going on the trip and planning to go on the tour of the White House needs to contact Commander Larry Riley at 860-638-0891 if you have not already done so, to provide him with your FULL first name, middle initial, last name, date of birth, and Social Security number. This is needed to gain entrance for the tour. This information will be DESTROYED once it has been provided to the Secret Service for admission to the White House.

The 2010 Westfield International Air Show will be held August 21 & 22, 2010 at Barnes Air National Guard Base.

Featuring:

The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds

**The U.S. Army Parachute Team
the "Golden Knights"**

And my Deuce.....

Barnes Air National Guard Base, 104 Fighter Wing - Westfield, Mass -- August 21-22, the skies of Westfield will come alive with the sounds of freedom. Barnes Air National Guard base will host the US Air Force Thunderbirds, US Army Golden Knights, Geico Skytypers, Greg Poe, John Klatt, a Jet-powered school bus, Dan Buchanan, the Red Eagles, Rob Holland, pyrotechnic displays, and many historic and military aircraft like P-51, F-4U, H-34, P-47, B-25, T-6, F-16, F-18, A-10s...to name a few. (Cont. next page)



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(Air show Cont.)

I will be taking the Deuce up to the Air show. (Jack so graciously volunteered it and me as long as he gets to ride shotgun) A friend of his is involved in the Air show and through e-mails back and forth between them, the truck was mentioned. MSgt. Tony Dultz, USAF ANG, told Jack that they would be pleased to have the truck on display and would welcome the Chapter to participate in their program.

Anyone that would like to go to the Air Show with myself and Jack are welcome to ride up with us. It would be a great two days and I'll bet those who go up in the truck will get choice spots to view the activities and equipment that will be on display.

For more information about the Air Show, visit <http://www.westfieldairshow.net/index.cfm>

If you plan on driving up there yourself, here are the directions to the Air show. There is a charge for parking.

Directions:

From the Mass Pike

Take Exit 3, Easthampton/Westfield. If coming from the East, **make sure you don't miss this exit, as the next exit is 30 miles.** Make a left off the exit and proceed 2-1/2 miles.

Route 91 North

Take exit 15. At the end of the ramp, turn left at the light, proceed through one set of lights, and turn right onto Homestead Ave. at the next light. Take a left at next set of lights onto Route 202 West. Follow this to the second set of lights (Purple Onion Restaurant) and take a left (Southampton Road).



REMEMBER THOSE THAT HAVE FOUGHT FOR OUR FREEDOM AND GAVE THEIR LIFE FOR US.
TAKE TIME THIS MEMORIAL DAY TO REMEMBER THEIR SACRAFICE WITH A MOMENT OF
SILENCE IN THEIR HONOR. THEY ARE NEVER FORGOTTEN.



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**Last meeting before the summer break, Tuesday, June 1, 2010
Golf Tournament, Thursday, June 3, 2010**

No winner at the May meeting so the drawing goes up \$10.00 for the June meeting.

**PLACEMENT OF FLAGS AT THE STATE VETERAN'S CEMETERY FRIDAY,
MAY 28TH, AT 4:00 P. M.**

**MEMORIAL DAY MAY 31st 9:00 a.m. CEREMONY WASHINGTON GREEN
MEMORIAL DAY PARADE MAY 31st 10:30 a.m. DOWNTOWN MIDDLETOWN
MEMORIAL DAY MAY 31st VETERANS CEMETARY 2:00 p.m. CEREMONY**

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MAIL TO:
