



Veterans of the Vietnam War

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



“PEOPLE WHO CARE”

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NEWSLETTER

July 2011

“WHAT A WONDERFUL SUMMER SO FAR!”

MARK YOUR CALENDARS 2011 SCHEDULE

August 19 – New Britain RockCats Baseball

September 6 – Meeting Night, 7pm

October 4 – Meeting Night, 7pm

November 1 – Meeting Night, 7pm

November 3-6 – Washington DC Trip

November 11 – Veterans Day (Think about it...we recognize Veterans Day on the eleventh month, eleventh day, eleventh hour, eleventh minute...this year is 11-11-11-11. Do you believe Al Qaeda isn't thinking about this?)

December 6 – Meeting Night, 7pm - Election of Officers for 2012

December 11 - Christmas Party

NO MEETING OR DRAWING

ELK'S WOUNDED WARRIORS PROJECT

On Friday, June 24th the Middletown Elk's Lodge held their Wounded Warrior Project luncheon for veterans emphasizing those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. Several members of our chapter attended and welcomed home those who have recently served. [Photos courtesy of Michael Rogalsky.]



NEW BRITAIN ROCKCATS VFW RECOGNITION BASEBALL GAME

We will be conducting our third New Britain Rock Cats Baseball fundraiser on Friday night, August 19th with the Rock Cats playing the Bluejays. **Hopefully all members can pitch in** to sell tickets and make this another successful fundraiser and a fun night out at the ballpark. Consider attending the game so we have a good showing of our members.

VETERANS AFFAIRS BANS MENTION OF GOD AT FUNERALS FOR VETS

The following article comes from Tim Wildmon, President of the American Family Association, based on a court action filed by the Liberty Institute of 2001 Plano Parkway, Suite 1600 Plano, TX 75075:

The Department of Veterans Affairs and its Director of the Houston National Cemetery, Arleen Ocasio, are engaging in religious viewpoint discrimination in violation of the First Amendment and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, by adding new incidents of religious hostility.

Since taking the directorship of the Houston facility in April, 2010, Arleen Ocasio has used her position to bully Christians, repeatedly trampling on the religious liberties of Veterans of Foreign Wars District 4, The American Legion Post 586, and the National Memorial Ladies.



On March 15, Director Ocasio told Nobleton Jones, Honor Guard Junior Vice Commander, that he couldn't say *"May God grant you grace, mercy and peace"* to grieving families. *"The hostile and discriminatory actions by the Veterans Affairs officials in Houston are outrageous, unconstitutional and must stop,"* said Jeff Mateer, Esq., general counsel of Liberty Institute. "Government officials who engage in religious discrimination against citizens are breaking the law. Sadly, this seems to be a pattern of behavior at the Houston VA National Cemetery." Our friends at Liberty Institute have amended an earlier lawsuit against the VA that states the new violations against religious liberty include:

- **VA Forbids Mention of God at Funerals for Veterans and Requires Families to Submit Prayer for Approval to the Government**
- **VA instructs the VFW and a Private Funeral Home that they may not present the option of prayer to families**
- **VA Tells Volunteers to Remove "God Bless" from Condolence Cards to Grieving Families**
- **VA Closes Cemetery Chapel; Uses it for Storage**

Mr. Wildmon states that Director Ocasio has already been successfully sued this year for religious discrimination. Obviously, she is not qualified to be the director of a National Cemetery and should step down. **Wildmon suggests that veterans protest these actions by sending an e-mail through the following links:**

Send an email to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs secretary Eric Shinseki.

Ask him to :

- 1) Stop his department's religious discrimination and**
- 2) Relieve Director Ocasio of her duties.**

or go to: http://secure.afa.net/afa/activism/takeaction_intl.asp?id=399

WATERS EDGE HEALTH CENTER, CHURCH STREET, MIDDLETOWN - JULY 1ST

Waters Edge hosted a cookout for veterans at 12:00 noon on Friday, July 1, 2011. No report as to whether or not any of our members attended

15th ANNUAL VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM WAR GOLF OUTING

Next year's 16th annual golf tournament will be held on **Thursday, June 7, 2012. Mark your calendar now and join us for a great day of fun and camaraderie**

2011 TRIP TO "THE WALL" AND THE WASHINGTON DC AREA

Planning continues for this year's trip to visit The VietNam Veterans Memorial ("The Wall") and other attractions and points of interest in and around Washington, DC leaving on **Thursday, November 3rd and returning on Sunday, November 6th**. The committee is checking out various hotels in the area to try to obtain the best deal. Presently there are 51 people signed up to attend. Tentative plans include a free day to sightsee on your own on Thursday after arrival, an escorted tour of the Capitol and the Pentagon (being arranged by Senator Lieberman) on Friday with a night visit to the monuments, a tour to the Naval Academy and Annapolis, MD on Saturday, and return home Sunday with a possible stop at Baltimore Harbor for lunch and sightseeing.

Remember, reservations are on a "first come – first served" basis. Contact Jack Mayoros (860-347-8843) for more info or to sign up.

HERE'S ANOTHER CROSSWORD PUZZLE TO KEEP YOU BUSY.

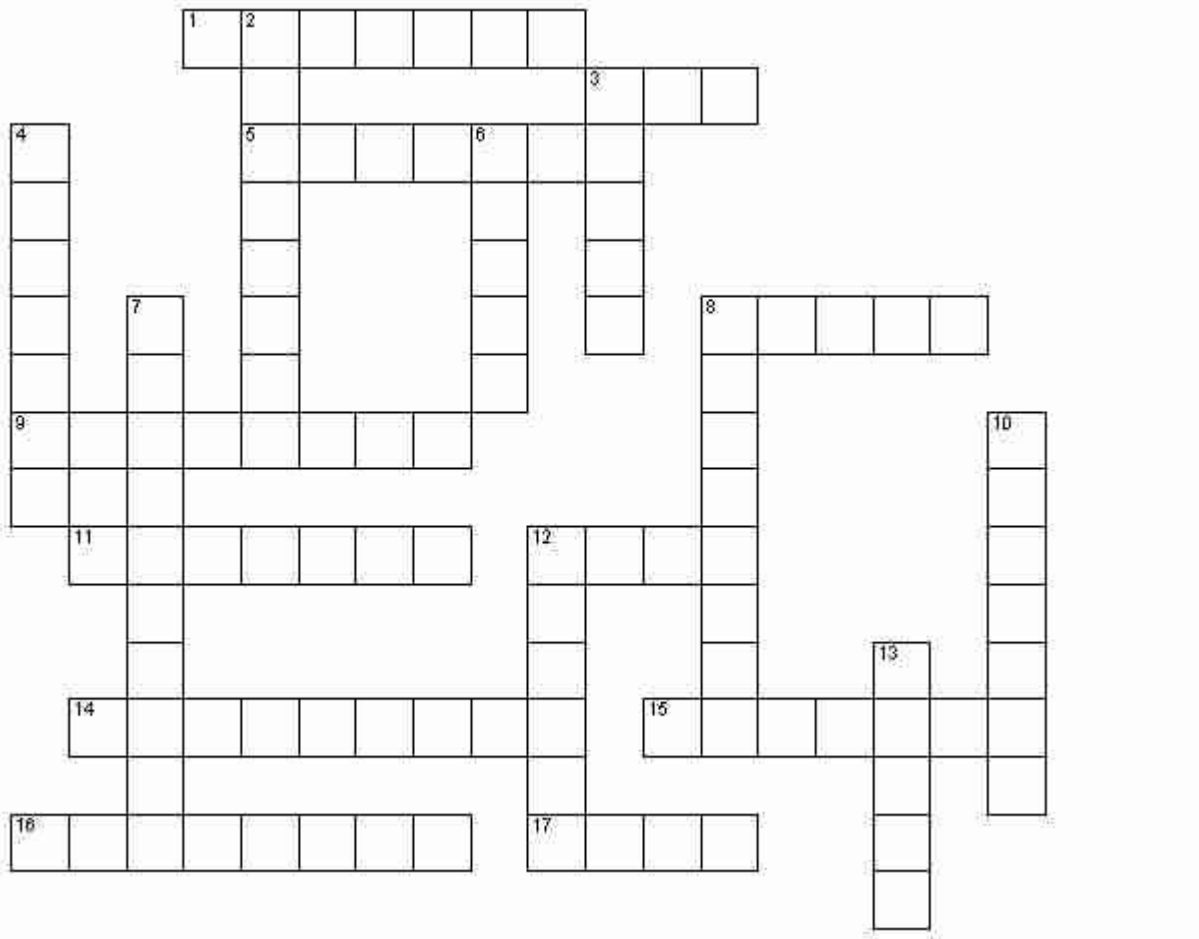
(FIRST CORRECTLY COMPLETED CROSSWORD PUZZLE TURNED IN AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING WINS A PRIZE.)

Across

- 1 Move quickly
- 3 Light Antitank Weapon
- 5 Monkey
- 8 2.5 ton truck
- 9 Standard combat uniform, green in color
- 11 The stern or aft open area of a ship
- 12 Nickname for the UH-series helicopters
- 14 Exchange of small arms fire between opposing units
- 15 Vietnamese for "STOP!" or "HALT!"
- 16 Mosquito
- 17 To slog around on foot

Down

- 2 Receiving enemy mortar or rocket fire
- 3 Career soldier, sailor, marine, airman
- 4 Nickname for a medical evacuation helicopter or mission
- 6 Short for kilometer
- 7 Voluntary or involuntary withdrawal of troops
- 8 Vietnamese term for "crazy"
- 10 Armed helicopter or adapted fixed-wing aircraft
- 12 House or living quarters, a native hut
- 13 The Bell UH-1 helicopter



Puzzle #2 **Name:** _____

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