



Veterans of the Vietnam War

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



“PEOPLE WHO CARE”

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NEWSLETTER

May 2011



“Live free or die. Death is not the worst of all evils.” – General John Stark

MARK YOUR CALENDARS 2011 SCHEDULE

- May 30 – **Memorial Day Parade**
- June 2 – **15th Annual Golf Outing**
- June 7 – **Meeting Night**
- July & August – **No Meetings**
- August 19 – **Rock Cats Baseball Fundraiser**
- 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**
- December 6 – **Meeting Night, 7pm - Election of Officers for 2012**
- December 11 - **Christmas Party**

DRAWING

Alex Oja’s name was drawn at the May meeting. The June drawing of **\$50.00** may go to you if you are at the meeting.

NEW BRITAIN ROCKCATS VVW RECOGNITION BASEBALL GAME

On Thursday, May 12th, 11 members of our chapter along with family and friends watched a very exciting game as the Rock Cats held on to defeat the Sea Dogs 10-9. The weather was spectacular and our chapter received recognition on the scoreboard and PA announcements. The CT Governor’s Foot Guard posted the colors at the beginning of the game. Six (6) of our members staffed an information table in the concourse and met several people. We collected over \$40.00 in donations to our “Support the VVW” jar at the table and raised around \$750.00 from ticket sales. We will be doing another game on **Friday night, August 19th** with the Rock Cats playing the Bluejays. **Hopefully all members can pitch in** to make this another successful fundraiser and a fun night out at the ballpark.



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MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

This year's parade, **Monday, May 30th**, is dedicated to the Vietnam Veteran. Our chapter and other Vietnam veterans organization's members will be the lead element in this year's Middletown Memorial Day Parade. To date we have about six members who have signed up to "march" but we need much more participation in order for us to make a good showing. Mike will follow in his deuce and will transport anyone who can't walk the length of Main Street. The ceremonies will begin at **9:00 am** at the Vietnam Memorial on Washington Terrace then the parade at **10:00 am** followed by a ceremony at the State Veterans Cemetery at **2:00 pm**. The City of Middletown is looking for a Vietnam veteran to serve as guest speaker to talk for about 8 minutes about their experiences related to serving in Vietnam. If you are interested in speaking contact Commander Larry or Mike Rogalsky as soon as possible. Suggested "uniform" – navy blue short-sleeve VVW shirt, khaki pants, baseball cap, and comfortable shoes/sneakers. We want to look sharp and professional!

MAY IS MILITARY SPOUSE APPRECIATION MONTH

The following is part of an article in MilitaryOneSource.com titled "*Building a positive relationship with your spouse*".

Partnerships take maintenance

"Maintenance" might sound like something for your car, but in fact anything you value and that you want to last needs attention and care. And you want your relationship to stay solid and run smoothly for years to come. The biggest part of maintaining your relationship may be awareness -- noticing how each of you feels, and acknowledging the things that need to change to keep things functioning well. Here are a few practical tips from the relationship maintenance manual:

- Share household chores. Research shows that women spend more time on household chores than men do. Working women can feel as if they have two jobs -- the one they go to and the one they come home to each day. The result is often a mountain of resentment. Running the household together takes work on the part of both partners. Men may need to play a bigger role, and women may need to stop criticizing their partners for doing chores "the wrong way." (After all, there may be more than one way to scrub the sink or do the laundry.) Try rotating chores to minimize the boredom and drudgery factors. For example, suggest, "I'll cook if you'll clean up tonight."
- Be flexible. No matter how well you and your spouse talk about your differences, you won't agree on everything. And that's normal. In fact, your differences are probably part of what attracted you to each other in the first place. Recognize that not all differences of opinion have to be resolved. Sometimes you just need to agree to disagree -- and be willing to listen to your spouse's point of view.
- Give each other space. Your relationship will be stronger and more interesting if you give your spouse time and space without you. Remember that one person can't possibly meet all your needs. Both you and your spouse must keep and nurture outside friendships and interests.



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VETERANS EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP

There will be a Veterans Employment Workshop in the Hubbard Room of the Russell Library, 123 Broad Street, Middletown, on **Wednesday, May 26, 6:00 – 8:00 pm** featuring Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Linda Schwartz, Director of Veterans Employment Terry Brennan, and Jeff Thierfeld, expert resume and job interviewing consultant, as speakers. According to a March article in the Washington Post, unemployment for young veterans of the Iraq/Afghanistan war is at 21.1%, significantly higher than the 16.6% unemployment rate that non-veterans of the same 18-24 year old age group are experiencing. If you or anyone you know are interested, please consider attending this workshop.

CONNECTICUT SCIENCE CENTER OFFERING FREE ADMISSION TO VETERANS

The Connecticut Science Center located at 250 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, CT wishes to honor those who serve, active and retired military, police, fire, or EMS services by offering **free general admission** to those who serve and ½ price for their family members. (Movies, parking fees and other offerings not included). This offer is valid over the Memorial Day weekend, **Saturday, May 28 – Monday, May 30, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.**

15th ANNUAL VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM WAR GOLF OUTING SET FOR JUNE 2ND

As of our May meeting we had approximately 20 foursomes registered for our 15th annual golf outing on June 2nd, rain or shine, at the Portland Golf Course. **We need more golfers as well as volunteers to help with registration, photographer duty, handing out gift packs, monitoring the prize holes, etc.!!! Even if you are not a golfer you can assist the chapter by volunteering.** This is our biggest fundraiser and there is still time for all members to help by soliciting players, tee sponsors, or raffle prizes. Anyone from a small business to a large company, an individual, a union or fraternal organization, anyone can sponsor a tee (where we make most of our money) for \$100.00. You can solicit raffle prizes such as gift certificates for golf, dinner, spa visits, haircuts, etc. or actual gifts to be raffled off from almost any place you visit or do business. Don't be afraid to ask or at least drop off a form and let them decide. Golf is \$125.00 per player and includes a continental breakfast, all-you-can-eat lunch, a great chicken or prime rib of beef dinner, green fees and cart. This is a really fun day! Registration forms for playing, tee sponsorship or raffle prizes are available from Commander Larry or Jack Mayoros. **Please help us make this a successful event by getting involved in any way you can.**



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MIDDLETOWN ELKS LODGE No. 771 CONDUCTING FLAG DAY CELEBRATION

On **Thursday, June 9, 2011, at 6:00 pm** the Middletown Elks Lodge #771 will be conducting a Flag Day Celebration in the Crystal Ballroom at their lodge. This is a national tradition for the Middletown Elks and they want to honor the flag and those who fought for it. Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Linda Schwartz, a Vietnam Veteran, will be the keynote speaker. The Flag Day ritual will include dinner for all of their guests. All veterans are invited to attend.

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. Due to response from last year’s attendees, it has been agreed upon that this year’s trip will consist of four days and three nights, leaving on **Thursday, November 3rd and returning on Sunday, November 6th**. Transportation will be provided by coach bus with accommodations at the Arlington Holiday Inn, same hotel as year before last. 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.

Reservations will be on a “first come – first served” basis with a **\$100.00 per person deposit deadline due by our June 7th meeting and payment in full no later than our October 4th meeting**. Right now the pricing is \$516.00 for single occupancy; \$636.00 for double occupancy; and \$756.00 for triple occupancy. **We need commitments as soon as possible in order to reserve this pricing.**



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