



Veterans of the Vietnam War

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



“PEOPLE WHO CARE”

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NEWSLETTER

November 2011

2012 Dues are payable now...

MARK YOUR CALENDARS 2011 SCHEDULE

December 6 – Meeting Night, 7pm - Election of Officers for 2012
December 9 - Christmas Party

DRAWING

Antonio Rosa’s name was drawn at the November meeting with a prize of \$40.00. He was not present so the December drawing will be for \$50.00. It may go to you if you are at the meeting.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Chapter will conduct the annual Christmas Holiday Party at the American Legion Hall again this year on Friday evening, December 9th. Vin Labbadia, USN, has agreed to prepare the prime rib meal. Anyone attending is asked to bring in canned goods to be donated to the Amazing Grace Food pantry. Hope to see you there. Please advise a board member if you plan to attend so Vinny can have an idea how much food will be needed.



TAPS

Louis A. Tosto (1944-2011)



Louis A. Tosto Jr., 67, died Nov. 7 with his family by his side. He was born in Middletown, the son of the late Louis and Anna (Morello) Tosto.

He is survived by his wife, Maria Hanlon; his daughters and their families, Renee and Paul Brockett; Andrea and Sean

Antley, Debra Tosto and her partner, Isolde Ebert; his grandchildren, Ashlee and Mariah Rollins, Ryan and Alec Brockett; his step-children, Kelly Hanlon and her son, Hanlon Jones; Shawn and Andrea Hanlon and their children, Paul and Ryan; his former wife, Charlotte Tosto; his aunts and close cousins and many dear friends.

Following his graduation from Middletown High School in 1962, he entered the U.S. Navy and served his country for two years as a medical corpsman, stationed at the naval base in New London.

Lou started his career in law enforcement with the Middletown Police Department in 1969. During his 35 years of service to the city of Middletown, he was a mentor and role model to all. He was a true friend to many. He had been a member of the Elks, the Sons of Italy and a **lifetime member of the Veterans of the Vietnam War.**

OCTOBER STORM ALFRED

Most of Connecticut took a hard hit from the freak October Snowstorm, Alfred. This historical storm dumped anywhere from 3-12 inches of snow over the state and the extreme weight on the trees that still had an abundance of leaves caused serious damage from broken limbs to entire trees falling over. Of course with all of this it goes without saying that the downed trees and limbs also pulled down utility wires including everything from cable TV to power lines. At the height of the storm there were approximately 800,000 customers without power and it took over a week in many cases to reconnect. The damage from this storm and the economic and political repercussions will be the topic of discussion for a long time to come.

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

Our chapter's annual visit to Washington, DC was held from November 3-6 with many of our members reporting a great time. Mike Rogalsky showed some fantastic photos he took on the trip and I'm sure he will share them with those unfortunate members who had to cancel out due to the storm-related issues here at home. Mike raved about Annapolis and the U.S. Naval Academy visit. Perhaps next year's itinerary can include some of the same sights.

VETERAN'S APPRECIATION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BREAKFAST

On Tuesday, November 8th ten members from our chapter attended the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce "Support the Troops – Honor the Veterans" breakfast at which members of the Armed Forces were recognized and thanked for their service. Attendees included veterans from all branches with the oldest being a local WWII vet who was wearing his original Army uniform. The keynote speaker was Paul "Buddy" Bucha, former U.S. Army Captain and medal of Honor recipient during the Viet Nam War. Captain Bucha gave a very inspirational speech and received a rousing standing ovation. He took time to take photos with veterans in attendance, including several from our group. If you missed this event you certainly missed a very touching and pertinent address. Perhaps we will make this an annual event for our chapter.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

This year we participated in the Wreaths Across America by purchasing Christmas wreaths to be placed at the graves of our members as well as other Middletown veterans at the State Veterans Cemetery. If you would like to purchase one or more wreaths personally to recognize family or friends buried at this cemetery you can buy them individually for \$15 each, family of 4 wreaths for \$60, or small business of 10 wreaths for \$150. We have a special code that will entitle you to a 3rd wreath free for every 2 ordered if you wish to buy them through the VVW. **Purchases must be made no later than November 21st.** Contact Jack for more details.

SICK CALL

Jack Mayoros is recovering well from his recent back surgery. Tom Goglia is recovering from surgery. Richard Young is on sick call as is Robert Clayton, Sr. If you know of any other members who are sick or injured please pass the word along so we can advise the membership to allow them to keep our members in their thoughts and prayers.

AARP SAFE DRIVER DISCOUNT PROGRAM

The AARP Safe Driver Program scheduled for Saturday, November 19th from 8:30AM – 12:30PM was cancelled due to lack of enrollment/interest.



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