



Veterans of the Vietnam War

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



“PEOPLE WHO CARE”

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NEWSLETTER

June 2012

2012 Dues are now overdue...Consider becoming a Life Member with a one-time payment of \$100.00.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS 2012 SCHEDULE

May 25 – State Vet’s Cemetary Flag Placement starting at 9:00am.

May 28 – 9:00am Memorial Day Ceremony at monument on Washington Terrance followed by annual parade on Main Street and service at Vet’s Cemetary (2:00pm)

June 5 - Meeting Night, 7pm (Pizza Night)

June 29 - **New Britain RockCats vs Trenton Thunder (NY Y Yankees), 6:30pm game time.**

July 2 - Meeting Night, 7pm

MEMORIAL DAY ACTIVITIES

As noted in the schedule above, our chapter will participate in several activities again this year to honor veteran’s on Memorial Day. On Friday, May 25 we will place flags on the graves at the State Veteran’s Cemetery located on Bow Lane, Middletown. We need volunteers to assist anytime during the day as there are over 8,000 graves to be marked, If you can donate some time please contact Commander Larry at (860) 344-1086.

On Monday, May 28th we will conduct a brief ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans memorial on **Washington Terrance beginning at 9:00am.** Please come and show your support. Following the ceremonies members will “march” in the annual parade down Main St. Mike will try to bring his deuce so those who can’t walk can ride. We need to have a good turnout for this parade as well. If you can’t be there at 0900, be on **Rome Ave. at 10:00am** to find where we will be placed in the line of marchers.

Who’s Who in Middletown VVW?



Past Commander and life member **Joe Labbadia, USMC**, is the first member to be recognized in this column. Above is a photo of Joe and Mike Kruger (Montana) off the coast of Vietnam on the USS Whitfield County, March 1970. Joe was born and raised in Middletown, graduated Woodrow Wilson HS 1967, served in Vietnam 1969 - 1970, areas: Quang Tri, Dong Ha West, Vandergrift, LZ Russell (DMZ). Three brothers- Joe, Vin, Tony served in country at the same time. *Joe, we are all proud of your service as well as that of your brothers.*

If you have a photo of yourself when you were young, lean and mean and serving on I would like to start running a short bio story on our members. It would feature a “then” and “now” photo with a short write-up about your service & basic life information. I think this would be a great way for us to all get to know one another a little better and to display pride in our chapter. If you bring the old photo in I will scan it for the computer (unless you already have it scanned) and take a “now” photo. You can provide a short write-up about yourself for inclusion.

ROCKCATS BASEBALL FUNDRAISER

Flyers and tickets are now available for our first New Britain Rockcats fundraiser. The game is on Friday evening, June 29th with gates open at 5:00 and game start at 6:30pm. Please consider participating in this event by selling as many tickets as possible or at least by a pair and give them away if you don't want to attend. It's a lot of fun and great camaraderie. Last year Larry & Vinny were the stand-out producers. Its time everyone helps out. Tickets are \$9.00 of which the chapter gets \$4.50 for each ticket sold. As of our meeting night (May 1st) we only had 31 tickets left to sell so if you haven't bought yours yet you still have time.

DRAWING

Lou Warzecha's name was drawn in the raffle drawing by Vinny Silvestro. Unfortunately Lou was not present to claim the \$30.00 prize. June drawing will be for \$40.00. You have to be present to win so as Bob says: *“Come on Down...”*

2012 VVW TRIP TO GETTYYSBURG / PHILADELPHIA AREA

The Chapter will be heading to Gettysburg for this year's annual trip with a professional guided tour of the battleground on the 150th anniversary. Dates are Thursday, October 4th through Sunday, October 7th. Bus will leave Middletown at 6:00am and drive to Gettysburg. Free night the tour on Friday. Saturday travel to Philadelphia. Day & night are open with possibility of a trip to Baltimore to see the Orioles vs. Red Sox game. Return on Sunday. Please let someone on the Board know if you are interested in going as trip will be limited to approx. 50 people.

SICK CALL

No members identified as being sick, injured, or recuperating.

Middletown Military Museum

Middletown Military Museum open on Saturdays from 11 - 1 PM.

Little League Sponsorship

The chapter approved a proposal to sponsor a Ahern-Whalen Little League team in the 8-10 year old bracket. The players uniform shirts read Middletown Vietnam Veterans. Our team is doing great with two wins! Their next “home” game is on **Thursday, May 10th at 5:45pm** at Moody ballfield. Come out and support **OUR TEAM!**

Annual VVW Golf Outing

Our annual golf outing fundraiser will be held on **Thursday, June 7th, at the Portland Golf Course.** **We need all members to participate** in this, our largest fundraiser, by soliciting golfers to play, seeking donations for the raffle, and trying to pursued businesses, restaurants, etc. to patronize to contribute as a Tee Sponsor. At this time we are trying to hold the price per player at the same \$125.00 level as in past outings even though the prices for the meals have increased. That is one of the lowest golf outing fees for what is included (18 holes of golf with a cart, breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and a great time. **Again, everyone is asked to start now in doing what you can to support our chapter.**

COMPUTER ACCESS?

Several more members have come forward with their computer e-mail address that is used strictly for chapter business. If you have started using e-mail please let me know so I can include you on the private distribution list. This will save the chapter \$\$\$ on mailings and also ensure that you receive info in a timely manner.

Spring Fling Chapter Social and Dance

At the suggestion of Vinnie Sylvestro, the Chapter decided to conduct a “*Spring Fling*” social and dance on Saturday, May 19th at the American Legion Hall on Bernie O’Rourke Drive. This date is significant as it is Armed Forces Day. As of this writing it appears that the meal will consist of a menu of sausage and peppers, baked chicken, eggplant parmigian, salad, bread and butter. Chapter will provide ice and cups but you must BYOB and set-ups. If you plan to attend contact Commander Larry as soon as possible to reserve your seat. Limited to 40 people.

Please consider attending this function.



Memorial Day SOS Breakfast at Portland American Legion Hall

VVW member **Bill Willinsky** announced that on **Saturday, May 26th** the annual **All-U-Can-Eat breakfast** consisting of eggs, SOS, bacon, sausage, juice, toast, & coffee all for the incredible price of **\$5.00 per person!** Serving will begin at 7:30am and end at 11:00am or whenever you burst from overeating! Come on down as chat with other members who regularly attend.

Membership

Our chapter membership now stands at a total of 109 (60 Life Members with our newest member **Bill Currlin** coming on board, 41 Annual Members, and 9 Honorary Members). If you know of anyone who served during the Vietnam era ask them to consider joining. We have flyers available outlining who we are and what we do to assist you in recruiting new members.

VVW Chapter Website

Have you looked at our chapter website? If not go to this link: www.vietnamvetsmiddletownct.org and check it out. Lots of good information found there about the chapter, even though it is presently not updated. Refer potential members to the site as well.

Armed Forces Day

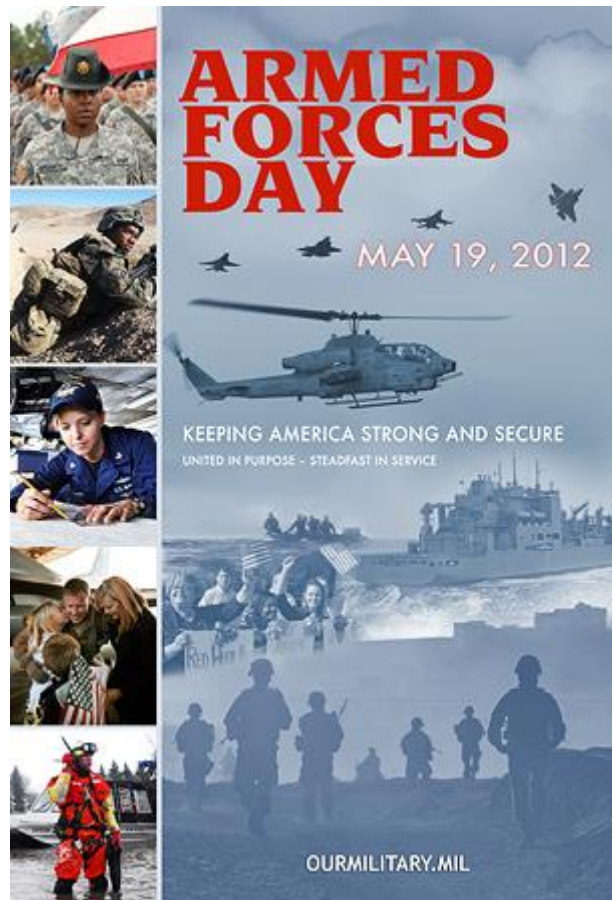
KEEPING AMERICA STRONG AND SECURE

United in Purpose - Steadfast in Service

Saturday, May 19, 2012

President Harry S. Truman led the effort to establish a single holiday for citizens to come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our country.

On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force Days. The single-day celebration stemmed from the unification of the Armed Forces under one department -- the Department of Defense.



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