



# Veterans of the Vietnam War

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



## “PEOPLE WHO CARE”

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NEWSLETTER

May 2012

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

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS 2012 SCHEDULE

April 18 – Vets meet w. Mrs. Mancini @  
Middletown High School, 10:30am – 1:00pm  
May 1 – Meeting Night, 7pm  
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

### DRAWING

**David Pina** was the lucky winner of \$40.00 from the April drawing. You have to be present to win so as Bob says: “Come on Down...”

### ROCKCATS BASEBALL FUNDRAISER

Flyers and tickets are now available for our first New Britain Rockcats fundraiser. The game is on Friday evening, June 29<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 2012 VVW TRIP TO GETTYYSBURG / PHILADELPHIA AREA

The Chapetr will be heading to Gettysburg for this year's annual trip with a professional guided tour of the battleground on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As of right now dates are Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. The committee is trying to plan an interesting trip to include Gettysburg with possibly a trip to Baltimore for an Orioles game or sight-seeing on your own as well as a stop in Philly. Depending on schedule might substityute a Phillies game in lieu of Orioles. Please let someone on the Board know your feelings and if you might think about participating in this type of adventure.

### SICK CALL

**Jack Mayoros** is recovering well from a bout with pneumonia. **Jerry Augustine** recently had surgery to deal with his lymphoma. If you know of any members who are sick or injured please pass the word along so we can advise the membership to allow them to keep them in their thoughts and prayers.

### Middletown Military Museum

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

## Who's Who in Middletown VVW?

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. What do you think? **Commander Larry** has already volunteered to be the first but I'm still waiting for his response.

## Military Records

National Archives records for veterans web site:  
<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>

**Please note:** *Records are accessioned into the National Archives, and become archival, 62 years after the service member's separation from the military. This is a rolling date; hence, the current year, 2012, minus 62 years is 1950. Records with a discharge date of 1950 or prior are archival and are open to the public. Records with a discharge date of 1950 or after are non-archival and are maintained under the Federal Records Center program. Non-archival records are subject to access restrictions.*

There are a large number of websites that provide information on Veterans benefits and how to file and/or ask for them. Accordingly, there are many sites that explain how to obtain books, military/medical records, information and how to appeal a denied claim with the VA. Most of this information is free and available to all veterans, but you have to ask for it. You are invited to look over the list of websites in the event that one or more of them will be advantageous to you.

Check out this website:  
<http://www.militaryconnection.com/veterans/veteran-government-resource-sites.asp>

## Veterans Assistance Center

Dave Messer brought in brochures from the **Connecticut Vets Center** located at **25 Elm St., Rocky Hill, Tel: (860) 563-8800**. He said that they were very helpful, especially Donna Dube Hryb, MSW, Team Leader.

## Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans

Nine members of our Chapter along with their significant others the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans event on **Saturday, March 31, 2012** at the Governor William A. O'Neill Armory in Hartford, CT. It was a great evening with members from each branch of the military entering the room behind that branches colors. Obviously the majority of attendees were U.S. Army veterans. It was reported that approximately 800 veterans attended.

## 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 will read Middletown Vietnam Veterans. Cost for a two-year sponsorship was \$550.00. We should consider supporting the team as well by attending their games whenever possible.

## Annual VVW Golf Outing

Our annual golf outing fundraiser will be held on **Thursday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 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.

### Vote to Amend Chapter By-Laws

At the April meeting the Chapter By-Laws were reviewed and proposed changes read and explained. The twenty-two members present cast their votes unanimously in favor of the changes being adopted. Therefore, the new by-laws will go into effect as of April 3, 2012.

### 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 19<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion Hall on Bernie O’Rourke Drive. This date is significant as it is Armed Forces Day.. Details will be announced after the committee meets and decides whether there will be meals served, a DJ, or exactly what the agenda will be. If you have any suggestions contact Commander Larry.

**Please consider attending this function.**



### Salvation Army Bell Ringing, December 2011

We received a Thank You letter from the Salvation Army recognizing our collection effort at the East Main Street Stop & Shop this past December. The total amount collected was \$722.56, a great response considering the economy.

### Memorial Day at State Veterans Cemetery

Once again this year our chapter will participate in placing American Flags at the headstones of Veterans at the State Cemetery located off Bow Lane, Middletown. The flags will be installed on Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup> and will remain over the Memorial Day weekend. Any member that is available is asked to assist in this service project to show that we are “*People Who Care*”. More information as to when and where to meet will be announced at the May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

### Membership

Our chapter membership now stands at a total of 109 (59 Life Members, 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](http://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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