



Veterans of the Vietnam War

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"PEOPLE WHO CARE"

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Page 1

NEWSLETTER

October 2013

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

November 3rd – Hartford Veterans Day Parade
November 4th – Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce "Support the Troops" Breakfast, 7am
November 5th – Regular Meeting, 7pm
November 11th – Veterans Day Ceremonies
December 3rd – Regular Meeting, 7pm
December 6th – Chapter Christmas Party
January 2014, Date TBD – Installation Dinner

DRAWING

Jeff Waskiewicz's name was drawn for the monthly drawing however he was not present. The November drawing will be for \$50.00. You must be present to win so come to the meetings and you may leave with \$\$\$\$ in your pocket!

MEMBERS and GUESTS

The Chapter presently has 108 members (39 Regular members, 64 Life Members, and 5 Honorary members). **Jerry Augustine** introduced **Ed Gould** of Portland, formerly from the Killingly/Putman area, who is a US Army veteran. Ed served in Vietnam in 1969 and is considering joining our Chapter. If you know of any veteran who meets our membership criteria invite them to attend a meeting with you and to enjoy the camaraderie.

MEMBERS ILL OR IN DISTRESS

Paul Fazzino is in Aurora Senior Living of New Britain, 400 Brittany Farms Road, New Britain, CT. Please consider going to visit and support Paul and keep him and his wife, Jeanette, in your prayers. **Jack Mayoros** is at home recovering from neck (disc) surgery.

COMMITTEES

Ron Lee announced that there are two RockCats Friday night home games scheduled: April 18th at 6:35pm (Portland Sea Dogs – Boston Red Sox affiliate) and May 2nd at 6:35pm (New Hampshire Fisher Cats – Toronto Blue Jays affiliates). The idea of the "All-You-Can_Eat" picnic was discussed but there was no interest shown so we will plan on one of the Friday night games and will be checking to see if there is a preference of which game to choose.



We will be sponsoring three (3) Wednesday night BINGOs at the Rocky Hill Veteran's Home during the upcoming months on **October 9th, December 11th, and February 12th**. members willing to help will meet at the American Legion Hall on Bernie O'Rourke Drive at 6:15pm and convoy up to Rocky Hill. The BINGO starts at 7:00pm and we are usually out of there no later than 8:30pm. Please consider volunteering a few of hours to assist with this worthwhile event to support those veterans.



A Nominating Committee for the upcoming election of officers was established consisting of **Tom Goglia, Jerry Augustine, and Mike Rogalsky**. If you want to nominate someone for one of the positions or want to nominate yourself contact one of the committee members as soon as possible. The election will be held at the December 3rd meeting at which time nominations will also be taken from the floor. Installation dinner will be in January.

The Trip Committee will be looking at a trip to Washington D.C. next Spring during the Cherry Blossom Festival, possibly late April or early May. More discussion and information will be available at the November meeting.



HOLIDAY PARTY

This year's Holiday Party will be held on Friday night, December 6th, at the American Legion Hall on Bernie O'Rourke Drive. The Friendship & Cocktail hour will be from 6-7:00pm (BYOB & Appetizers). Dinner will be catered by Public Market. Cost is \$10.00 per person or \$15.00 for a couple. Bring a wrapped grab bag gift valued at no more than \$10.00 and a non-perishable item for the food pantry. We are looking into either a DJ or recorded music for those who want to "get down & boogey".



VETERANS DAY CEREMONIES

There are several events scheduled for the upcoming observance of Veterans Day. We are looking for people interested in participating in the Hartford Parade on **Sunday, November 3rd**. (Members along with their friends and relatives are OK). Mike Rogalsky will drive his deuce-&-a-half with riders if there is any interest, otherwise he will allow his vehicle to be used by another group. If you are interested please contact Mike at (860) 632-2395 or by e-mail at Nam_vet68@hotmail.com as soon as possible (NLT October 16th) so he can make a commitment. Mike will leave the American Legion Hall on Bernie O'Rourke Drive at 9:00am in order to be in Hartford by 10:00. The parade runs from approximately noon – 2:30pm.

On **Monday, November 4th**, the Chapter will sponsor ten (10) members to attend the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce **"SUPPORT THE TROOPS"** breakfast at the Cromwell Crowne Plaza Hotel. There are still a couple of seats open so if you want to attend and represent our Chapter contact Commander Larry Riley as soon as possible. Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Vietnam veteran, Captain Paul W. "Buddy" Bucha, U.S. Army, will be the keynote speaker.

Monday, November 11th, the Veterans Day observance ceremony will be held beginning at 11:00 am (11th month, 11th day, 11th hour, 11th minute) on the Veterans memorial Green, Washington St. (between High St. & Park Place), Middletown. This will be followed by a luncheon at Waters Edge at 12:30pm and a service at the Bow Lane Veterans Cemetery at 2:00pm. Melilli Bakery will sponsor the Veterans Dinner at Portland High School that evening (tickets can be obtained from the Portland Town Clerk's Office or Portland Melilli Bakery).



CHAPTER NEWS

Phil Cacciola pointed out that the Middletown Home Depot had committed to helping out any needy veteran who might need assistance in their home such as an access ramp, plumbing or electrical repair, etc., or other projects that will aid them in their quality of life activities. If you need assistance, or know of any other veteran who does, contact the Middletown Home Depot manager and/or Phil.

Commander **Larry Riley** noted that St. Luke's Home and Elder Care Center needs assistance from people who are willing to transport veterans from Middletown to the VA Clinics in Newington or West Haven or other appointments. All you need to do is devote a few hours, use their vehicle, and help these veterans make it to their appointments. Larry added that St. Luke's is having financial difficulties as well in supporting these veterans and the Chapter is considering making a monetary donation to assist them in their efforts. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

INSPIRATIONAL STORY

If you have access to the internet, consider watching an inspiring story of Vietnam veteran and Medal of Honor recipient Staff Sergeant Roy P. Benavide, USA, by connecting to...

<http://www.greatamericans.com/video/Portraits-of-Valor-Roy-Benavide;Army-Videos-2>

This is especially significant at this time of year as we prepare to observe veteran Day.



MILITARY HUMOR

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NCOS AND OFFICERS

A young Marine officer was severely wounded in the head by a grenade, but the only visible permanent injury was to both of his ears, which were amputated.

Since his hearing wasn't impaired he remained in the Marine Corps. Many years later he eventually rose to the rank of Major General. He was, however, very sensitive about his appearance.

One day the general was interviewing three Marines, prospects for his headquarters staff: The first was an aviator Captain, and it was a great interview. At the end of the interview the General asked him, "Do you notice anything different about me?" The young officer answered, "Why, yes, Sir; I couldn't help but notice that you have no ears." The General got very angry at his lack of tact and threw him out. The second interview was with a logistics Lieutenant, and he was even better. The General then asked him the same question, "Do you notice anything different about me?" He replied sheepishly, "Well, Sir; you have no ears." The general threw him out, also. The third interview was with a Marine Gunnery Sergeant, an infantryman and Staff NCO. He was articulate, looked extremely sharp, and seemed to know more than the two officers combined. The General wanted this guy, and went ahead with the same question, "Do you notice anything different about me?" To his surprise the sergeant said, "Yes, Sir; you wear contact lenses." The General was very impressed and thought, what an incredibly observant NCO, and he didn't mention my ears. "And how do you know that I wear contacts?" the General asked. "Well, Sir;" the gunny replied, "it's pretty hard to wear glasses with no f*#@^\$g ears!"

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