



Veterans of the Vietnam War

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



"PEOPLE WHO CARE"

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NEWSLETTER

February 2014

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

March 4th -Regular Chapter Meeting, 7pm
April 1st -Regular Chapter Meeting, 7pm
May 6th -Regular Chapter Meeting, 7pm
June 3rd -Regular Chapter Meeting, 7pm

MEMBERS and GUESTS

There were no guests at the January meeting. We have two new members, **Vance Fisher, Jr. USA**, and **Michael Brown, USN**. Please welcome Vance and Michael to the Chapter. This brings us up to 115 members (42 Regular members, 68 Life Members, and 5 Honorary members). 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 recovering at home. Please consider going to visit and support Paul and his wife, Jeanette. Please contact Jeanette before planning a visit.

OVERDUE DUES

Now that we are into 2014 there are still members who have not paid their dues for this past year. You know who you are...Please, **PAY YOUR DUES UP TO DATE** to prevent being removed from the active roster and forfeiting any potential benefits accorded to active members.

DRAWING

Emmanuel Pattavina's name was drawn however he was not present so the March drawing will be for \$30.00. You must be present to win so come to the meetings and you may leave with \$\$\$\$\$ in your pocket!



COMMITTEES

Bingo: Wednesday, February 12, 2014, Members are encouraged to be at the American Legion at 6:15 PM to travel up to the Rocky Hill Veteran Home. Of note the DAV will be holding their bingo on February 19th known as Christmas in February for the veterans.

Baseball Committee: We have **50 tickets** for the New Britain Rock Cats Vs Red Sox affiliate Portland Sea Dogs on Friday April 18th. Fireworks after the game. Tickets will be on sale (\$10 each) at the March meeting or call Jack at 860 347-8843.

Golf Committee: The Chapters tournament will be held on Thursday, June 5, 2014 at the Portland Golf Course. The save the date post cards will be sent out at the end of February. The committee consist of: **Jack Mayoros, Joe Labbadia, Mike Rogalsky, Rich Couture, Vinny Silvestro, John Landry**. Any other member is welcome to join the committee.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER

Thank you to **Linda Maher** for sending this compelling story of leadership and of loyalty to military comrades. That feeling you will have while listening, is a stirring of patriotism and pride. When you watch this, it will make our lack of action at Benghazi look even more pathetic.

http://www.youtube.com/embed/QvRcP4go-eg?feature=player_embedded

"A veteran is someone who, at one point in his or her life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America " for an amount of "up to and including his or her life."

Phil Cacciola stated that there are 15 schools that will receive the book from the Chapter written by Sergeant First Class Joseph Kapaczewski. Our cost is \$20 a book. At this time we are waiting for him to attend the Middlesex Chamber Breakfast and we will have the 15 books autographed. The Chapter should consider drafting a letter to the schools and have Members present them.

The Commander reports that the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day (CTwhvvd.com) will be held on March 15th starting at 6:00 PM at Zandri's Stillwood Inn, 1074 S. Colony Rd., Wallingford. For more information visit the website above.

Members are reminded that if they have a medical emergency and land in the emergency room of a local hospital they have 72 hours to notify the VA of the emergency treatment.

Mike Rogalsky reported that the monument dedicated to the men and women who served during the Gulf War, Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq will be dedicated in mid to late April of this year. The monument will be placed on the Veterans Green on Washington Street. Mike will keep the Chapter informed.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICER, FEB. 14, 2014

The Chapter held the Installation of Officers ceremony at the Middletown Elk's Club on Saturday, February 14th. The officers for 2014, **Commander Jerry Augustine**, **Vice Commander Nick Cordone**, **Secretary Joe Labbadia**, and **Treasurer Jack Mayoros**, were installed by member Phil Cacciola. Everyone in attendance had a great time, a wonderful meal, and shared the camaraderie. Past Commander Larry Riley was presented with an award acknowledging his 5 years as Commander.



Incoming Commander's Address:

"We are Vietnam Veterans. When our Country called we responded either by joining or answering the draft. The day we got indoctrinated, whether it be the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, or the Coast Guard, we had no idea where we were headed. The important thing is we served honorably. When we returned home from that unpopular war we weren't greeted with accolades, parades or, for that matter, much respect. We had to blend back into civilian life ourselves. It wasn't easy.

Now that many years have passed since we returned, almost half a century, we are finally getting some respect and recognition that we so well deserve.

Our mission will remain the same. We will educate middle school and high school students and teach them the history of our war and that joining the military is an honorable path to take for their future if they so choose. We will also abide by the term "Veterans Helping Veterans". Whenever there is a veteran in need we shall come to his or her aid and help them appropriately.

I am truly honored to be chosen as your new Commander. I am proud to be amongst you. You can be proud that you are a Vietnam Veteran and served the United States of America.

- Commander Jerry Augustine



VETERANS of the VIETNAM WAR, Middletown Chapter
P.O. Box 2113
Middletown, CT. 06457-2113
www.vietnamvetsmiddletownct.org
E-mail: [vwnewsletter@hotmail.com](mailto:vvwnewsletter@hotmail.com)

MAIL TO:
