



Veterans of the Vietnam War

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"PEOPLE WHO CARE"

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Page 1

NEWSLETTER

April 2016

2016 Dues are overdue and payable now...

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- May 3rd – Regular Meeting**
- May 28th – Flag laying at Vet’s Cemetery**
- May 30th – Memorial Day parade**
- June 2nd – 20th Annual VVW Golf Tournament at Portland Golf Course**
- June 7th – Regular Meeting (No meeting July/Aug)**

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER

On Saturday, May 28th the Chapter will be placing flags on the veteran’s graves at the CT Veteran’s Cemetery, Bow Lane. We have moved it to a Saturday as there are many companies that will send volunteers to help us.

With the Memorial Day Parade and the Golf Tournament quickly approaching any member who would like to purchase a Chapter shirt please contact Ron Lee at Lee4463@sbcglobal.net or see him at the May meeting. Shirts are approximately \$30.00 depending on style (various styles other than the short sleeve golf shirt are available) and size requested. Note that a minimum of a 4 shirt order is needed for the company to set the machines for production. It would be nice if the members who are attending a funeral as discussed above were all dressed in the same clothing for a “uniform” appearance.

MEMBERSHIP

If you know of anyone who qualifies for membership tell them about our chapter and encourage them to join. *(Minimum of 90 days active duty between 1959-1975 with honorable discharge. Does not have to have served in Vietnam or contiguous waters.)*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Scholarships: The Chapter will be awarding the Peter M. Taft Scholarship to a student from Haddam-Killingworth High School this year.

Golf Tournament: June 2nd is the 20th golf tournament for the Chapter. Members are encouraged to get tee-sponsors and raffle prizes. Volunteers are needed for the event.

Proposed West Point Trip: The West Point trip is sold out and is scheduled for June 3rd.

Bingo: The Chapter will sponsor 3 bingos at the Rocky Hill Veterans Home: November, December 2016 and February 2017.

MEMBERS ILL OR IN DISTRESS

Thankfully, no members were reported as ill or in distress.

A Prayer For Our Troops



Lord, we come before your throne of grace asking you to protect our troops. Strengthen them with your power and minister to their spirits.
“No weapon formed against them shall prosper.” and
“My presence will go with you and I will give you rest”
May miracles abound them.

150th Anniversary of Memorial Day, 1866-2016

May 2016 marks 150 years of honoring Memorial Day. It is an especially ideal time to remember all Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice over the past 241 years.

The three-day weekend is about more than barbecues, parties, and the beach. Technically, summer doesn't start until June 21 but many people consider Memorial Day to be the unofficial start of the season. This year, we celebrate the holiday on May 30th. Many families will heat up the grill, head to the beach or take in a big blockbuster movie. But Memorial Day has the word "memorial" in it for a reason⁽¹⁾.

Memorial Day, originally known as Decoration Day from the custom of decorating graves with flowers, started simultaneously in both the North and the South after the Civil War ended in 1866. The holiday started on May 30, 1868, when Union General John A. Logan declared the day an occasion to decorate the graves of Civil War soldiers. Twenty years later, the name was changed to Memorial Day. On May 11, 1950, Congress passed a resolution requesting that the President issue a proclamation calling on Americans to observe each Memorial Day as a day of prayer for permanent peace and designating a period on that day when the people of the United States might unite in prayer. President Richard M. Nixon declared Memorial Day a federal holiday in 1971. Memorial Day is now observed on the last Monday of May rather than the traditional May 30th. It is an occasion to honor the men and women who died in all wars.

What bears repeating is that this special holiday calls for honoring only the wartime loss of lives in uniform. Somehow or another – in some people's minds – Memorial Day has come to symbolize a time to remember anyone who died under any circumstance. This notion is an unfortunate distortion of the true meaning of the day set aside for those who died serving their country⁽²⁾.

Remembering Those Who Served

It is customary to mark Memorial Day by visiting graveyards and war monuments. One of the biggest Memorial Day traditions is for the President or Vice President to give a speech and lay a wreath on soldiers' graves in the largest national cemetery, Arlington National Cemetery, in Virginia. Most towns have local Memorial Day celebrations. Here are some ways you can honor the men and women who serve our country⁽³⁾:

- Put flags or flowers on the graves of men and women who served in wars (**VVW May 28th**).
- Fly the U.S. flag at half-staff until noon.
- Visit monuments dedicated to soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, and coast guardsmen.
- Participate in a National Moment of Remembrance at 3 p.m. local time.

- March in the Middletown Memorial Day parade to represent our Veterans of the Vietnam War Chapter.

(1) TIME For Kids Staff, May 24, 2015

(2) Commemorating Memorial Day's 150th by VFW Commander-in Chief, John A. Biedzycki, Jr., published on page 2 of the May 2016 issue of the VFW magazine.

(3) TIME For Kids Staff, May 24, 2015