

CONNECTICUT VETERANS HALL OF FAME

History

The Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame was established to increase the awareness of the lifetime contributions of veterans after completion of honorable military service. The Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame is not a military hall of fame. Those selected for the honor of induction are veterans who honorably served their country through military service and who continue to serve and inspire their fellow man with their deeds and accomplishments throughout their lifetime.

Each year the committee will select at least 10 inductees from applications received from across the state and nation. These veterans will be leaders in a variety of areas, such as arts, education, public service, volunteer activities, and community and business leadership to name a few. Most importantly, they will have made significant impacts on the lives of others and their communities.

To be eligible for the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame, the nominee must have served their country honorably in a branch of military service and continued to serve their communities, state and nation after discharge. Because so many of America's veterans continue to give to their communities, state and nation after honorable military service, the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame seeks to recognize them for their countless contributions to society.

The Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame is administered and sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Connecticut Military Department on behalf of the Office of the Governor.

The first class of the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame was inducted in November 2005 and includes the 41st President of the United States, George Herbert Walker Bush.



GLENN NEAL ARTHUR JR.,
Gales Ferry

U.S. NAVY

Glenn Arthur, Jr. has given his entire adult life to the service of his country, the State of Connecticut, the residents of the Forty-Second Assembly District and his community. Glenn spent twenty-two years in the U.S. Navy serving on various submarines, including a tour as the Commanding Officer of the USS William Bates and various staff assignments. His last assignment was locally at the Naval Submarine Base (NLON) as the Deputy Chief of Staff of Submarine Squadron Ten. In 1984 he chose to again serve the people of the region by being elected as a State Representative from the Forty-Second District, serving five terms. His tenure as State Representative had him serving on several commissions and committees including ranking member of the Appropriations Committee. Glenn was a member of the Groton-Ledyard rotary for more than twenty years, an active member of the Gales Ferry United Methodist Church serving on the Board of Trustees & Staff Parrish Relations Committee, a member of the Ledyard Board of Education from 1981-1983 and a life member of the Navy League. Glenn has hosted several sailors at his home during the holiday season, offering a “home away from home.” Glenn has in the past and continues to advocate for various Veterans and active duty groups from the many organizations in which he participates.



PETER BECKWITH

Manchester

U.S. Army

After serving in the U.S. Army, Peter Beckwith started his life's passion of helping others by enrolling in the Willimantic Auxiliary Fire Department and started learning firefighting for the next eleven years before being hired by the town of Manchester. During this time, he began taking several classes, eventually moving on the training and instructor side of firefighting, teaching more than 50 various classes for what eventually became the State Fire Academy. Some of his volunteer services included working for the National Ski Patrol, was an Advanced First Aid Instructor for the American Red Cross, and Auxiliary Trooper for the CT State Police, Troop H in Hartford, a former President and charter member of the CT Firemen's Historical Society, volunteer teacher of Fire Technology Course at Rockville High School in Vernon, CT, and is currently a committee member of the Andrew J. Flanagan Memorial Fund Assoc. Scholarship Committee. Peter assisted in the formulation of a retiree organization for the then 50+ retired Manchester fire fighters which subsequently became more organized and was formalized in November 2007. He is also an Appointed Training Director of the Manchester Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).



JOHN DEBISSCHOP III

Naugatuck

U.S. NAVY

John currently serves as a Captain in the Naugatuck Fire Department and donates countless hours to the work of the Veterans Council, American Legion, Boy Scouts of America, Southington Mountain Ski Patrol, Waterbury Fish & Game Protective Association and beyond. As the Chairman of the Veterans Council, John has been a main organizer of the town's Memorial and Veterans Day Parades for the past few years. From 4:30 am on Memorial Day when he begins the rounds with a group of fellow Veterans and family members visiting the grave sites of Naugatuck's deceased Veterans, to speaking in front of 1000 Naugatuck High School students about lives given in service and the importance of respect for our country and the flag, to early fall days when he can be found providing proper disposal of the used and tattered flags of Naugatuck community members, to cold November days marching down one of the main streets in town to honor all Veterans who have served, John strives to keep the lives, sacrifice and memory of Veterans at the forefront of the community's awareness so none will be forgotten and all will be honored. John has managed to figure out ways to take the things about which he is most passionate, his country and Veterans, firefighting, scouting, skiing, hunting and fishing, and to turn them into opportunities for service. As an active member of the American Legion, he served in various leadership positions at both the local and state levels focusing on getting word out about the work of the Legion, recruiting members and involving the Legion in town activities. When John is in front of a group of children or teenagers, whether at a school for a local Veterans advocacy initiative or promoting Americanism through the Boys' State program, he stands as someone who is proud of what can be achieved through service to one's country. He serves as a mentor to the boys and young men with whom he is privileged to work, hike, camp and serve in the community.



ELLIOTT DONN

Windsor

U.S. NAVY

Elliott Donn has always felt a deep need to be instrumental in improving the lives of others and the contributions he has made continue to have a significant impact on other Veterans as well as the many communities he serves. Elliott's work on the Board of Directors of the Cheshire Education Foundation and the Bloomfield Education Foundation resulted in the development of programs which would not otherwise have been available. These programs have left long term, positive effects on the children residing in the towns he served. One such program was a nature center funded by charitable donations that Elliott helped raise has promoted a long lasting appreciation of the importance of ecological responsibility with the many local children who participated in it. Elliott brings speakers from the community who enhance the local educational systems by sharing their life experiences, exposing school children to additional learning and other points of view. In 1998, Elliott became involved with the Jewish War Veterans (JWV) and has contributed countless hours supporting this organization on local, state and national levels. He has worked to make other Veterans aware of their benefits and entitlements from the Veterans Administration and has initiated a statewide program of collecting necessary documentation for Veteran's funerals, thereby diminishing one source of stress for bereaved families. He has raised funds for the National Museum of American Jewish Military History in Washington DC and for the Jewish Chaplains Monument which was erected on Monument Hill at Arlington National Cemetery. He continues to collect, sort and distribute much needed items to Veterans at the annual Stand-Down held at the Rocky Hill Veterans' Home and also supports the efforts of the South Park Inn, a shelter and transitional living center in Hartford which houses many needy Veterans.



RICHARD FULLER, *Posthumously*
Norwalk

U.S. AIR FORCE

Richard Fuller's advocacy for Veterans in Norwalk was manifested by his support for the patriotic activities of the Norwalk Veterans Memorial Committee, and especially the Memorial Day Parade, the Veterans Day Ceremony and the Essay Contest for Norwalk students, all annual events and all heavily dependent on support from the Norwalk Public Schools. Richard's influence within the schools was considerable as he served as an elected member of that body for 22 years. His service over two decades, combined with his inspirational leadership as Chairman of the Norwalk Board of Education, established Richard as one of Norwalk's greatest citizens. His lifetime dedication to the betterment of Norwalk youngsters, especially those of low income circumstances, was unparalleled. He taught civics and was the freshman football coach at Brien McMahon High School from 1970-1977. He was also the guidance counselor at the school's annex his last year. From 1978 to 2004, Richard was the Executive Director at the Carver Center in Norwalk. The City of Norwalk honored him by assigning the honorary name of "Richard Fuller Way" to Taylor Street, the site of the Carver Center in 2004. He was voted to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2011. While many miss him, his presence in the lives of those he touched is still felt to this day.



THOMAS HEATH

Somers

U.S. AIR FORCE

Upon discharge from the Air Force, Tom sought a career in which he could serve his community and was selected as a police officer in his home town of Enfield. As a police officer his exceptional performance and ability to solve difficult cases saw him to being awarded six department commendations, the most noteworthy was his selfless attempt to rescue a driver of a burning tanker on I-91. His accomplishments were further noted when he was chosen "Police Officer of the Year" by the Enfield Jaycees. Having seen firsthand the hardships and difficulties families endured in Enfield when the local mill was closed and they were left with neither a job nor funds to survive, Tom always sought out opportunities to help those he could. For over 40 years and continuing to this day, Tom has served either as the Chairman or as a working member of the town program providing Christmas gifts for many needy families. Tom has served on the Johnson Memorial Hospital Board, the Northern CT Child Abuse Coalition which oversees the needs of women and children at risk and chaired the Enfield Boys Scouts Association as well as the Enfield Arthritis Fund Drive. As the State Military Funeral Honors Coordinator and The CT Senior Survivor Outreach Director, Tom is responsible for the oversight of funeral arrangements for CT Veterans as well as active duty personnel in the state. To date he has overseen and ensured over 20,000 Veterans have received the military honors they deserve. Tom also ensures the families of all passing service members are not only aware of the benefits they are entitled to, but he maintains contact with them to assist in any way possible. In an effort to further the wellbeing and understanding of Veterans' rights, Tom has developed and implemented an information awareness program at the Newington VA Hospital with plans to expand this service to the West Haven VA Hospital. He has personally advised, supported and guided numerous Veterans seeking assistance from the VA by establishing contact with the Veteran's advocates at the Newington VA Campus.



ALLEN LAWTON, JR.

Bolton

U.S. MARINE CORPS

Allen Lawton has been and always will be a tireless and exemplary advocate not only for our soldiers currently serving our state and country, but for all soldiers and their families. He is steadfast, revered and a patriot member of his community, state and nation for his continued dedication and support to all civilian and military organizations. In 1992 he started an office furniture business in Manchester with friends and soldiers from the CT Army National Guard supporting his workforce. He is now the proud employer of 45 employees of which 20% are Veterans and of those, 5% are Disabled American Veterans. His primary goal and dedication is to hire Veterans. He utilizes his experiences from his military career to mentor men and women of his workforce as well as others in the business community. Allen's leadership has helped develop countless numbers of young men and women who are either still with his company or who have moved on to other opportunities. He is a member of several local and regional Chambers of Commerce as well as a member of the Better Business Bureau with an AAA+ rating. Allen and his company have contributed office furniture to Veterans residing at the Rocky Hill Veterans Home as well as significant annual donations of monetary and needed items to support the Veterans on that site. He started a special program for homeless teenagers in Manchester and every Christmas, ten to fifteen teenagers were invited to the Armory for a Christmas dinner and presented with gifts, a day of celebration, fun and music.



CONNECTICUT VETERANS HALL OF FAME
CLASS OF 2015 INDUCTION PROGRAM

NOVEMBER 30, 2015

PRELUDE

1st Company Governor's Foot Guard Band Ensemble

ENTRANCE OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY

Master of Ceremonies

USMC Veteran Gil Simmons

Morning Meteorologist WTNH/NEWS8

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Isabella Perrone, Age 9

Wethersfield, CT

4th grade student at Alfred W. Hanmer Elementary School

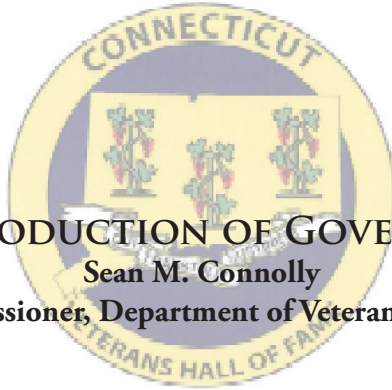
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Senator Mae Flexer

Representative John Hennessy

INVOCATION



**INTRODUCTION OF GOVERNOR
Sean M. Connolly
Commissioner, Department of Veterans' Affairs**

REMARKS

**The Honorable Dannel Malloy
Governor**

**The Honorable Nancy Wyman
Lieutenant Governor**

INDUCTION - CLASS OF 2015
Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman

UNVEILING OF VETERANS HALL OF FAME PLAQUE

Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman
Commissioner Sean M. Connolly
Major General Thaddeus Martin

CLOSING MUSICAL SELECTION
1st Company Governor's Foot Guard Band Ensemble

*VIP Reception for Inductees and their guests
immediately following the program at the
Officer's Club at Gov. William A. O'Neill State Armory*



PW LOUTHAIN

Deep River

U.S. NAVY

PW is a Life Member of the U.S. Submarine Veterans Inc. He is an active member of Groton Base, RI Base and Hoosier Base. He was also involved with USSVI at the National Level as a District Commander. In addition to this, he is an active contributing member of the Westbrook Elks Lodge 1784, National Association of Uniformed Services and Fleet Reserve Association Branch 20. He does not just join these organizations, he gets involved. He has been the foundation of many programs and initiatives that have been established that benefit Veterans of all Services, submarine Veterans and Active Duty Sailors in the local area. He is an outstanding role model, leader and citizen. Through coordination with both USSVI Groton Base and the Westbrook Elks and the Boy Scouts of America, PW was directly responsible for establishing two Sea Scout Ships. These are similar to Boy Scout Troops, but their activities are on the water. These groups are taught seamanship, sailing/boating and water safety. This has presented an opportunity for young adults from the Groton and Westbrook areas to develop personal skills, leadership skill and young people of good character. Aside from leadership skills, his primary trait is that he cares about Veterans and Active Duty Personnel regardless of their age and he cares about the people in his community. One of his many accomplishments was to single handedly work with State Representatives and the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles to establish the Connecticut Silent Service License Plate Program, license plates that honored submariners. Once this was approved, PW promoted the program and worked with the membership and within a short amount of time he had obtained the minimum 200 license plate requirement that had initially been waived by the Commissioner. PW personally handled the program and served as the liaison between the members requesting license plates and the DMV. Since that time, the program has grown dramatically. PW has been involved in planning numerous events that recognize Veterans such as dinners, picnics and Memorial Services.



DANIEL RICCIO

North Haven

U.S. ARMY

As a Veteran himself, Dan's dedication to Veterans sets him apart. As Commander of the American Legion Post 76, he puts both time and energy towards helping Veterans receive the necessary assistance and recognition they deserve. He has made it his personal mission to help Veterans obtain wheelchairs, walkers, canes and everyday necessities. Dan's community involvement extends beyond assisting Veterans. He has become an inspiration to young people in North Haven; supporting the high school sports teams, volunteering with the local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and managing three American Legion baseball teams. He visits North Haven High School providing historical perspectives as part of the "Eyewitness to History" program for students. He also provides continued support to many of his local service organizations such as the soup kitchens, food banks, Special Olympics and the Leukemia Foundation. His commitment to community is all encompassing, he is an active parishioner of St. Barabas Church where he is a past catechism teacher and member of the parish council. He was a member of the committee established to organize a charity golf tournament at the University of New Haven which raised funds to enable students to pursue their academic endeavors at the university. He has been recognized for his efforts with the 2012 North Haven Citizen of the Year Award, the Beacon Award from the Journal Courier last year and the VFW's Community Americanism Award.



MICHAEL SKELPS

Middlefield

U.S. NAVY

Michael has been a community leader, bringing his military-inspired sense of duty and honor to the town of Middlefield. He has been a member of the Middlefield Lions Club since 2006 and is currently the Vice President of the Club. Under his leadership, the Lions Club has increased charitable giving to a ten-year high and due to his leadership and contributions, he was awarded the 2012 Lion of the Year Award and then the Ambassador of Sight award for his continued commitment of generating funds for important community programs. The key component of this fundraising was his leadership of the Spring Into Spring 5K/10K road race, which has drawn nearly 1,000 participants and generated in excess of \$20,000 to support local community programs such as the Food Bank, Fuel Bank, Scholarship Fund and numerous other donations that help the community. Through months of planning and preparation each year, Michael has managed all aspects of this event since 2012. This race draws runners from across the state and beyond. Michael currently serves on Middlefield's Charter Revision Commission, helping to bring our town's governing document up to date to face the challenges of today and the future. This year, Michael has become a strong advocate for Patent Reform Legislation. In Washington, both the House and Senate have drafted bills to stop abusive patent legislation that affects thousands of businesses across the country, including many Veteran-owned businesses, some of which are in Connecticut. Michael has made several trips to Washington DC and Hartford to meet with Congressmen and Senators on this important issue. He plans to continue to lead within the Lions Club of Middlefield to help the community and he will continue to advocate for patent reform until it is signed into law.



GREGORY SMITH

Milford

U.S. NAVY

For 25 years Greg has been a VFW and VA Hospital volunteer, working to ensure that the needs of disabled Veterans and wounded warriors are not forgotten. From 2006-2008 Greg served as Commander of the VFW Post 7788 and under his command the post achieved 100% membership with an emphasis on attracting younger Veterans. For 12 years he has organized an annual event that brings more than 100 hospitalized Veterans to Milford for dinner and entertainment. He regularly visits hospitalized Veterans adding extra visits on and around major holidays. He led successful efforts to fund and install a handicapped elevator and a bathroom for disabled and wounded Veterans and is currently working with the Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, Milford City Historian, Milford Community Development and others to update the Milford Veterans Auditorium. He is currently working with the Milford Rotary to provide a fully-trained service dog to a local disabled Veteran, and to sponsor a team to raise funds to remember Navy Chief Special Warfare Operator (SEAL) Brian Robert Bill from Stamford who was killed in Afghanistan. Greg currently leads the VFW Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy scholarships for New Haven County. He organized and worked with several groups to collect and ship over 600 packages to Connecticut Soldiers and sponsored local Boy Scouts in their Eagle Scout "Packages for Troops" project. Greg participates in local POW/MIA and 9/11 programs and has been the keynote speaker in Milford's 9/11 Memorial Service representing the military in support of active duty personnel in the War against Terrorism.

CT VETERANS HALL OF FAME PAST INDUCTEES

CLASS of 2005

*Nathan George Agostinelli
George Herbert Walker Bush
William Thomas Coffey, Sr.
Dr. Randall Howard Collins
Bruce Hulst Ey
Joseph G. Lombardo
Giacomo "Jack" Mordente II
Lt. James Sedalia Peters II
Ernest Virgil Plantz
Norman Warren VanCor*

CLASS of 2006

*Douglas A. Bora
Robert A. Janicki
Franklin E. Johnson, Sr.
William J. Johnston
Evans Edward Kerrigan
Peter Robert Pardo
Anthony Vito Savino
James S. Tierney
Carl Roderick Venditto
Edward Washburn Whitaker*

CLASS of 2007

*Michael J. Daly
Alfred Faticoni
Dr. George G. Gentile
Elwood A.D. Lechasseur
Anthony Mammola
Alfred A. Meadows
Robert J. Nearine
Col. Robert B. Nett
Tony Paul Pia
Darrell D. Stark*

CLASS of 2008

*Evans H. Daniels, Jr
Valentine David Galasyn
John L. Levitow
Howard Louis Luppi
Barbara Ellen Miller
H. Richard Newell, Jr.
William Atchinson O'Neill
Roger Gene Paulmeno
Frederick Gates Reincke
Robert Rudolph Ritz*

CLASS of 2009

*Richard O. Belden
John "Jack" Dougherty
Robert L. Genovese
Dr. Harvey James Grinsell, Jr.
Brig. Gen. John J. King
Rev. William David McGee
Brig. Gen. Daniel J. McHale
Theodore J. Plamondon, Jr.
Alphonse N. Sabetta
Daniel A. Vece, Jr.
Homer L. Wise*

CLASS of 2010

*Edmund J. Burke
Thomas J. Burke
John J. Carcioppolo
Robert C. Hunt, Jr.
Doris Troth Lippman
William J. McGurk
Robert C. Moeller
Abner Oakes III
Edward V. Sabotka
Robert R. Simmons
Stanley F. Zebzda*

CT VETERANS HALL OF FAME PAST INDUCTEES

CLASS of 2011

*Madelon Baranoski
Samuel K. Beamon, Sr.
George Kenneth Carpenter
Ronald Catania
John Gregory Chiarella
Harold B. Farrington, Jr.
Phillip R. Kraft
Ronald Roland
Perry Richard
Alan Rampone
Burke T. Ross*

CLASS of 2012

*Father Thomas E. Berberich
Manuel Michael Cardoza, Jr.
Paul F. Dillon
Peter Galgano, Jr.
William George Godburn
Norman Hanenbaum
Alan Jepson
Charles Richard Morrissey, Sr.
Herbert Thomas Schacht
Thomas Sheridan
James H. Throwe
Carmine Joseph Vaccaro*

CLASS OF 2013

*John H. Bannan (posthumously)
George H. Breuler
John (Jack) G. Casey Jr.
Miguel A. Escalera, Sr.
Charles P. Gallagher
Robin L. Montgomery
James Milford Mosley
Michael Albert Thomas
William F. Vornkahl III
Robert John Young*

CLASS OF 2014

*Edwin Francis Atkins
Samuel Baez
Edmond Clark
Maurice L. Collin
Theodore Robert Cummings
Frank Esposito (posthumously)
David William Gay
Robert T. Getman (posthumously)
Richard A. Herman
Gerard B. Wright*