



Connecticut

District 3 Newsletter #3

December 2021

Welcome to the third edition of the District 3 newsletter with a reminder about our next District meeting, **Saturday, December 11 at 10:00am at Memorial Veterans Hall, 1 South Main Street, Windsor Locks.** This location is NOT the Windsor Locks Post, but an historic town building dedicated for use by veterans. It was built in 1890 for use by Civil War veterans who belonged to the Grand Army of the Republic, GAR, and now houses a museum to all military veterans.

Thank you to all who sent in items for this newsletter. I want this newsletter to be YOUR Post and Auxiliary newsletter of events, news items, questions, or comments. So keep sending anything and everything to me for upcoming issues!

Lee Wilson, District 3 Commander – 860-798-3562 cmd@vfwctdist3.org

GENERAL NEWS:

- THANK YOU to everyone who attended the October District meeting and warmly greeted Paul Lloyd, National Inspector General. He was very pleased to meet you all and hear about everything you are doing in your Posts and Auxiliaries.
- Also, thank you for your generous donations of \$255 for the door prizes run by the District Auxiliary that day. The funds were donated to the State President's scholarship fund.
- Speaking of the Auxiliary, the Department Auxiliary has a new website at www.vfwauxct.org Check it out and enjoy the many photos of events.
- REMINDER, please mail in your Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pens essays. This is the time to submit them for judging at the District and State levels.
- HAPPY 75th BIRTHDAY to the Smalley Brothers Post 6123 and Auxiliary, Windsor Locks. See page 4 for details on their celebration event held in early November.
- CONGRATULATIONS to Past State Commander Stanley Borusiewicz, US Marine Corps, Post 1946, Naugatuck for being inducted into the CT Veterans Hall of Fame, Class of 2021, on December 3. He joins eight other veterans from around the State of CT to receive this honor. Congrats Stan, well deserved.

- For your information, it was recently reported that some towns in Connecticut require a permit to have a US Flag retirement ceremony. If your town does, please file it in time as this has become an issue with some Posts and American Legions.
- Remember to send photos for the District website!

POST NEWS FOR OCTOBER THROUGH DECEMBER

Post 1926, Simsbury, submitted by Commander Lee Wilson

- The Post held a Poppy Drive for Veterans Day on Nov. 5-7 outside one local food store. Over \$3,000 was raised which will be used for donations to local and national non-profits that support veteran causes.
- The Post and American Legion participated in the Simsbury Veterans Day outdoor event at the Veterans Memorial on Hopmeadow Street (Route 10) in the town center. It was attended by over 100 residents and the local newspaper featured it on the front cover a week later. You can view it at <https://simsburytv.org/v/eTPw4I4bvNs>
- The Post is holding its annual new clothing drive from Nov. 11 - Dec. 11 for veterans at the Rocky Hill Home as well as two congregate housing centers in Simsbury where veterans reside.
- The Post will join the American Legion to participate with the Simsbury DAR in Wreaths Across America in Simsbury Center Cemetery on December 18.



Commander Lee Wilson and member Peter Van Loon at Veterans Day Poppy Drive in Simsbury

Post 2083, East Hartford, submitted by Senior Vice Commander Howard Satalino

- NOTE Commander Frank Forrest's Support Our Soldiers (SOS-Connecticut) organization will be sponsoring a *Support Our Troops* cookie collection and packing event on Sunday, Dec. 5 at the Hillstown Grange Hall, 617 Hills Street in East Hartford. Cookies will be collected from noon to 1pm and packing should be completed by 3pm. Packages will be sent to soldiers stationed overseas.

- VFW Post 2083 is supporting a Wreaths Across America ceremony organized by O'Connell School in East Hartford. Last year, the school raised funds to purchase over 500 wreaths for placement.
- The Post held a Poppy Drive on November 6 and 7 at Jersey Mike's in Glastonbury with \$477.78 in donations for the Relief Fund.
- On October 30, members of Post 2083 placed flags on the graves of veterans at Center Cemetery in East Hartford. Veterans who fought in all of our wars from the Revolution through the Vietnam War are among those buried at the oldest burying ground in East Hartford.
- The Post organized visits by veterans to East Hartford High School and Silver Lane Elementary School to talk to students about Veterans Day. Due to Covid restrictions, the events were scaled back significantly compared to previous years, but still very well received by the students and participating veterans. We also collected cards from the Silver Lane Elementary School students to be delivered to the Rocky Hill Veterans Home.
- The Post participated in Goodwin University's *Meet a Veteran Program* at the school on November 10. Post members met and talked with college students and staff, as well as middle school students from the adjacent magnet school.
- The Post worked with the East Hartford Historical Society and Raymond Library to organize and participate in a wreath-laying at the World War I monument in front of Raymond Library in East Hartford. Governor Lamont attended and spoke at the ceremony and spent time afterwards speaking individually with VFW members. The event was covered by ABC Channel 8 and Fox 61 News stations.



East Hartford WWI monument



Members of East Hartford Post after ceremony

Post 2046, Manchester, submitted by Commander Robert Venti

- The Post held a Buddy Poppy Drive at Manchester Wine and Liquor raising \$245.
- The Post participated with Manchester Hospital Color Guard, American Legion, DAV, Army and Navy veterans in the Manchester Veterans Day Parade.

- The Post made a donation of \$1,000 to Veterans Row for the Thanksgiving Day Manchester Road Race program booklet.
- Members attended the funeral of comrade John Robotto and provided a color guard.
- Donation of \$500 was made to support a theatrical play by the American Legion Post 102 entitled *100 Days in Vietnam*.

Post 10689, Ellington, submitted by Sara Landon, Quartermaster

- The Post adopted the Connecticut Army National Guard 102nd Band. On November 7 they provided them with coffee and donuts before heading to a concert in Stamford, CT.
- Ellington High School provided the Post and others with a Veterans Day ceremony.



Members of Post 10689 with the Band!!

Post 6123, Windsor Locks, submitted by Cheryl Costello-Pelkey, Auxiliary President

- The Post and Auxiliary celebrated their 75th Anniversary at a luncheon on Nov. 7 held at our post home. Our special guest was Ed Smalley, the son of Edward Smalley and the nephew of Francis Smalley, of whom our post is named. The Windsor Locks High School Band played the National Anthem and patriotic songs as we assembled outside around the Memorial in front of the post. Dept. Auxiliary President, Kim McCarroll presented a 75th Certificate to the auxiliary in recognition of their years of service to veterans, service members and their families.
- On Veterans Day at the Stonebrook Retirement Village, several auxiliary members attended a Veteran's luncheon. The poem *They Did Their Share* was read and a speech about the meaning of Veterans Day was given. We presented 29 Veterans living there with a Certificate of Appreciation in honor of their military service.
- The Auxiliary made 50 patriotic favor bags with a Buddy Poppy for the Windsor Locks Senior Center Veterans Breakfast.