



Connecticut

District 3 Newsletter #1

September 2021

Welcome to the first District 3 newsletter to share what is happening and to remind you about the next District meeting on Saturday, September 18 at 10:00am in Coventry. I will be sending a newsletter like this right before each of our upcoming District meetings (Oct., Dec., Feb., April and May) to keep lines of communication open among our Posts and Auxiliaries. Thank you to those who responded to my initial request for information! As you can see below, there is a lot happening in our District! It is my hope that you will read this newsletter each time and it inspires you to work hard in your community for our veterans.

Lee Wilson, Third District Commander

Greetings Comrades and Auxiliary members,

As our VFW moves into a new year, I look forward to having our Posts and Auxiliaries having a strong presence in our communities and providing programs that help our veterans in Connecticut. As Commander in Chief Fritz says "the time is now" to do the great work that you all do for them. Getting the VFW name out and letting your communities know we are alive and well and active. I look forward to hearing about the great work you are doing each day. Together WE will move Connecticut VFW "EVER ONWARD."

Best regards,

Dominick S. Cortese, CT VFW State Commander

GENERAL NEWS:

- Huge congratulations to Post 10589 Commander Manny Rodrigues on his selection to the Connecticut Class of 2021 Veterans Hall of Fame! This honor is bestowed on Veterans for their "countless contributions to society after their service." We are pleased that this year's class includes Manny who is more than deserving of this award. Congratulations Manny!!!
- The District 3 picnic scheduled for Sept. 12 at Commander Wilson's home in Avon, is postponed due to Hartford county being a "high transmission" zone. HOWEVER, because this picnic was going to be a joint fundraiser for the District and District Auxiliary, we ask that you make a donation equal to what you would have spent at the picnic (\$10 pp entrance and 50/50 raffle) by sending a check made out to "VFW CT District 3" and send it to Commander Lee Wilson, 64 Mountain View Avenue, Avon, CT 06001. Donations will be divided equally between both entities. THANK YOU!

- Reminder! September 17, 2021 is POW/MIA Day. National encourages all Posts and Auxiliaries to recognize and remember this day by doing something in the community like making sure your Town Hall has a POW/MIA flag flying; hosting a public ceremony; writing a letter to the editor of the local paper explaining the importance of this day or whatever is right.
- If you are holding a Poppy Drive this Fall, please put your order in NOW! It would make our District proud if each Post purchased a minimum of 500 poppies and distributed them in schools, at safe outdoor events, etc.
- The deadline for Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen submissions to your Post is in October 31. NOW is the time to reach out to your middle/junior and high schools to have students participate. The more students who do, the more our District has a chance of having the state winner!
- The District congratulates Carl Heinzelman, Post 3272, Avon, for having an article in Air & Space Magazine this summer entitled *Ad Hoc Flight Lesson*. It recounts his time in Vietnam when, at age 19, he found himself piloting an L-19 Bird Dog on a courier run while the actual Army Captain pilot watched. That experience created his career as a training pilot on flight management systems and piloting commercial airlines. He has a book coming out soon with more on his time in Vietnam.

POST NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER:

Post 10589, Coventry, submitted by Commander Manny Rodrigues:

- We take our veterans to medical appointments and pick up medications if they are needed. If a veteran is in a convalescent home, we provide a cell phone to make calls to family and friends.
- We partner with Foodshare handing out food to more than 100 people in need. Any VFW or Auxiliary member is welcome to join us at St. Mary's Church, 1600 Main Street from 0930-1030. Upcoming dates: Sept. 15 and 29, Oct. 13 and 27, with lunch provided.
- I will be on local TV soon to talk about my induction into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame.
- We host Bingo twice a month.
- We have a youth shooting program for kids age 11-15. We partner with the American Legion Post as they own the program and I am the instructor.
- We attended six Eagle Scout Court of Honors last month. Each Scout was provided an application to enter the VFW Eagle Scout of the Year award.
- We are contacting our middle and high school soon about the Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy contests. We normally have a good selection of essays each year.

Post 10689, Ellington, submitted by Commander Bruce Warkentin:

- Our Post will be participating in the Ellington Volunteer Fire Department's Fireman's Parade on September 11 at 5:15pm.
- Our Post will be presenting an award to Joe Palombizio, Ellington Veterans Representative, for his contributions to Ellington's veteran community.
- Applications for the Patriot's Pen contest will be delivered next week to Ellington Middle School and Windermere School.

Post 1926, Simsbury, submitted by Past Post Commander John Fox:

- The Post has positioned newly constructed retired flag collection boxes at Simsbury Town Hall and Simsbury Library. The Post is partnering with members of the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company and Simsbury Legion Post 84 to build a flag retirement facility at their Weatogue station property. The boxes were constructed by Commander Lee Wilson who also designed the facility. It is under construction with the goal of having the first public ceremony this Fall.
- The Post will have a booth at the return of the Simsbury Airport Fly-In on Sunday, Sept. 26 from 8:00am – 5:00pm. This is a combined air and car show with food trucks and thousands who attend during the day. The focus of the booth is to encourage membership and provide information to the community about what the VFW can and does do. Any VFW member is welcome to join us! For more information, visit: <http://simsburyflyin.com/HOME>

Post 8776, Hebron, submitted by John Gasper, Quartermaster:

- A recently held Poppy Drive raised \$812.
- Our projects and donations were distributed to: Scholarships for RHAM high school, Hebron Interfaith Human Services, VFW National Home for Children, VFW member losses, Memorial to Agent Orange Veterans in Andover, Gary Sinise Foundation and the American Cancer Society.

Post 574, Plainville, submitted by Commander Dave Dudek:

- Weekly Bingo at 6:30 on Mondays and Tuesdays – open to all! Join us!
- The Post will provide an Honor Guard for the Plainville Police at the 9/11 ceremony
- The Post received recognition through social media for the placing flags on Veteran's graves at town of Plainville cemeteries prior to Memorial Day & for providing the Honor Guard during Memorial Day ceremonies.
- Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy information will be distributed to the middle and high schools this week. The information is sent to each school's principals as well as the superintendent to raise awareness of these programs.
- The Post recently distributed scholarships to each of our 2020-2021 school year winners. The Post awarded a total of \$3,000 in scholarships this year and an additional \$1,000 was awarded by the Post Auxiliary.