



Connecticut

District 3 Newsletter #2

September 2022



Hello everyone. Thank you to all those who attended the District 3 picnic and first yearly meeting at my house in July. As this cake from District 3 Aux President Candice Shepard said, "Have A Great Year." Staring out well with all the information and events listed below!

Our next meeting is Saturday, September 10 beginning with coffee at 9:30am at Post 511, 41 Veterans Drive, New Britain. The meeting will commence at 10:00am. Remember, this Post has a food pantry and can always use non-perishable donations. Please be generous.

Kudos to our own District 3 Scout Chairman and Senior Vice Commander, Manny Rodrigues, who received the American Legion Dept of CT's Hall of Fame earlier this year. In 2021 he was inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame. And eleven years ago, in 2011, he was voted Connecticut's Immigrant of the Year! But as Manny says, his most treasured award is being inducted into the CT Hall of Fame. CONGRATULATIONS three times Manny!!!

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

GENERAL NEWS:

- **STAND DOWN 2022** – The CT Department of Veterans Affairs Stand Down 2022 will be held on September 23rd in five locations this year – Bridgeport, Bristol, Danbury, Norwich and Rocky Hill – from 8:00am – 2:00pm. The event is open to CT Veterans, Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve Military. For more details and location information, visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/dva/pages/veterans-standdown>

- The VFW Auxiliary Dept of CT annual Gold Star Parents Luncheon will be held on Sunday, September 25 at VFW Post 7330, 85 Davis Street, Oakville. Any Gold Star parents in your Post's area are invited to attend as guests. Deadline to submit their names for attendance is September 16. Please send their names to Anne Philippon, State Treasurer, 12 Baldwin Drive, Bristol, CT 06010. Other who wish to attend, the cost is \$20 per person. Questions? call Anne at 860-387-9520.
- Do not forget, the annual POW/MIA recognition day is always the third Friday in September. This year that is September 16th. This is an ideal time to honor the commitments and sacrifices made by our nation's prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action. Your Post or Auxiliary could host an event in the local library or town hall, raise the familiar black POW/MIA flag, create the Missing Man Table at a public place or simply hand out information about the importance of remembering their sacrifices for our Nation.
- PLEASE work on bringing back your expired and unpaid members. As Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland's slogan says, "Every Veteran Counts." And don't forget to purchase your Buddy Poppies this year; especially since 2022 is the 100th anniversary of this important and long lasting symbol. Let's make District 3 a model for all others.
- Post Commanders and Post Quartermasters are reminded to send AUDITS and PROGRAM REPORTS in a timely manner.
- National has released the contest themes for the 2022-2023 VOD and Patriot Pen; students should be writing for these NOW:
 - Voice of Democracy – "Why is the Veteran Important?"
 - Patriot Pen – "My Pledge to our Veterans"
- NOTICE: Post Commander Frank Forrest of Rochambeau-Elms Post 2083, East Hartford, reminds everyone that their Support Our Soldiers/SOS-Connecticut is sponsoring a "Support our Troops" with a Halloween candy and dental supplies collection and packing event, Sunday, October 2, 2022, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., at Hillstown Grange Hall, 617 Hills Street, East Hartford. They will sort and pack items to send to our Soldiers who will miss Halloween and Thanksgiving with family and friends. Many Soldiers are in quarantine making these holidays even lonelier. This is their Halloween treat boxes so any cards, drawings and letters to the Troops to place in the boxes would be great, especially pumpkins and apples drawings from schools. Several boxes will be for women troops with a special request of feminine needs that are non-aerosol; such as shampoo and conditioners; pads; hair brushes and combs, etc. Volunteers are needed to sort and pack. They are running low on names and addresses of Soldiers stationed overseas, so if you know someone please let them know. Also, postage for this event is about \$1,000. Please donate by sending checks made out to SOS-Connecticut and mailed to SOS-CT c/o Frank Forrest, 165 Maple Street, East Hartford, CT 06118. For more information, to donate merchandise in advance of the event, or to volunteer, call Frank Forrest at 860-690-2845 - sosconnecticut@aol.com

- For your information, if you are having trouble receiving travel reimbursement for your visits to Newington or West Haven, there is a website that you can use to make sure all your visits are recorded and paid in a timely manner: <https://eauth.va.gov/accessva/> Once in, choose Veteran Travel Claim Entry then choose a Login. From there you have to work through various screens to find the dates and times of your visits and you can claim them by hitting the appropriate buttons. The reimbursements seem to take approximately two weeks when done this way.
- The next **HONOR FLIGHT** send off will be Saturday, September 24 at 7:30am at Southwest Airlines Baggage Claim at Bradley Airport. I would like to see many members of District 3 join us in this event for their day in our nation's capital! Carpooling is encouraged because the only parking is in the new garage opposite the terminal. Hope to see you all there!!!



In February, District 3 Scout Chairman, Manny Rodrigues, with assistance from Dave Dudek, Commander, Post 574, Plainville, presented Eagle Scout awards to three scouts from the town of Prospect. Scout Chairman Rodrigues invites local VFW Post Commanders to assist with inductions where there is no Post. This new practice will give others a chance to learn how to conduct the Scout Court of Honor.

POST NEWS:

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

- Smalley Brothers Post & Auxiliary has been working the weekly Cruise Night on Thursdays from 5:30 to about 8pm. This will run thru September. We grill hotdogs, hamburgs and kielbasa that are available for purchase. There is a 50/50 raffle. We are supporting the NMS and the State Commanders and Presidents special projects. We have a Poppy can for donations and membership brochures are available for the public.
- The auxiliary has been assisting/teaching crafts monthly with the Senior Center for the Community Outreach Program.



Photos of Windsor Locks Cruise Night and crafts for the senior center!



Post 574, Plainville, submitted by Commander Dave Dudek

- On Memorial Day this year, the Post provided an honor guard to join the local Police Dept in rendering a 21-gun salute at all town cemeteries and at Veterans Memorial Park. The Post Commander was the parade chairman and master of ceremonies held in honoring deceased veterans after the parade. An open house was held, after the parade and Veteran ceremonies, at the Post. All events were covered by local press and Channel 30 News.
- On June 22, the post hosted a veterans breakfast. This was in conjunction with Plainville Rotary and Scoops for Troops.
- This summer the Post installed a stockade fence along the east property line. The Plainville Rotary provided the material and help.
- In June Commander Dudek was interviewed, along with Michael Ahern and family, on Nutmeg TV's Veterans Corner. Michael Ahern is a 12-year-old boy who established Scoops for Troops working with The Travis Mills Foundation. He received the Community Service Hero Award presented by The National Congressional Medal of Honor Society. Michael and his family resides in Plainville and he attends Plainville, Middle School. Here is the link to watch this interview on Nutmeg TV:

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=nutmeg+TV+veterans+corner&docid=6079933>

- On September 23 the Post will co-host, along with the Plainville Rotary, a wine, beer and spirits tasting. It will be held at the Post hall from 1830 - 2130.

Post 9990, Stafford Springs, submitted by Commander Robert Titus, Sr.

Sept. 24 – The Post welcomes everyone to attend their Summer Picnic on Saturday, Sept. 14 from 12:00-4:00pm at the American Legion Pavilion, 10 Monson Rd., Stafford Springs. Tickets must be purchased in advance - \$20 adults/\$10 children. They will have a DJ, raffles and food provided by Basils Restaurant. Cash bar. To purchase tickets, call Commander Titus at 860-324-8208.

Post 2083, East Hartford, submitted by Jr. Vice Commander Tim Gleason

Sept. 11 - 9/11 Day of Remembrance at the Fallen Star Memorial at Goodwin University, 1 Riverside Drive, East Hartford beginning at 10:00am. All veterans, veteran organizations and the public are invited to attend this 9/11 ceremony in honor of our states' Post 9/11 Fallen Heroes. A brief program will include an award presentation to Don Butler of the D.A.V. and the reading of the names of Connecticut's Fallen Heroes.

Sept. 16 – Join the Post for an end of the summer picnic beginning at 6:00pm. We will have hot dogs and hamburgers, salads, desserts and refreshments. The cookout will be held rain or shine at the Hillstown Grange, 617 Hills Street, East Hartford. This will be a chance for Veterans to meet and socialize and enjoy a dinner with fellow comrades who have all answered the call to serve their nation. Spouses, caregivers, and significant other are also invited to attend. The Grange is a smoke-free venue and is handicap accessible. This is a good time to ask questions on Veterans benefits and problems and we will try to get answers. At 7:30 we will have a program on Veteran addiction and suicide prevention. The public is invited to attend.

Sept. 20 and Oct 18 - A Veteran's Coffee Hour will be held from 10-11 AM at the East Hartford Senior Center. All veterans are welcome to attend.

Post 254, Hartford, submitted by Commander Edward Mullarkey

This summer the Post made a very generous donation to the Veteran's Corner local access cable TV show of Nutmeg TV in order to continue it's fine programming with veterans and guests.

Post 1926, Simsbury, submitted by Quartermaster Jon Blume

The consolidation of Bloomfield's VFW Post 1009 with Simsbury's Metacomet VFW Post 1926 was completed this summer and the new national charter has been received.

The Post will hold a three-day POW/MIA event to commemorate the national POW/MIA weekend with an information table outside Tractor Supply, 1603 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, on Friday, Saturday & Sunday, September 16, 17 and 18, 2022 from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Any donations received will benefit the VFW Veterans Military Support (VMS) Services program.

Tickets Available at:
Suffield VFW Suffield Hardware
Artioli Dodge Artioli Realty

LANDRY-SIC POST 9544
SUFFIELD VFW
SCHOLARSHIP FUND
PIG ROAST & RIDE

\$25

Saturday
September 10th

DOORS OPEN 2p
FOOD SERVED 3-5p

RAFFLES LIVE MUSIC
MILITARY EXHIBITS
FAMILY FRIENDLY!

DOOR PRIZE
\$250!

RIDE REGISTRATION: 12P
KICKSTANDS UP: 1P

DONATED BY
CT VALLEY
SEPTIC SERVICES

Visit us on FB SUFFIELD VFW POST 9544
Ride info call/text Dave 413-896-1122

ARTIOLI REALTY

972 SHILDON ST. SUFFIELD CT