



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Connecticut

District 3 Newsletter #3

November 2022



Members of VFW Post 2083 hold a Poppy Drive
at Jersey Mike's in Glastonbury CT.
November 5, 2022.

Pictured (L to R):
Quartermaster Rich Bates, Jersey Mike's employee Jonique and Chaplain Dan LaReau

Happy Veterans Day weekend everyone! This is the third installment of the District 3 newsletter for the 2022-2023 year. Our next meeting is Saturday, November 19 beginning with coffee at 9:30am at Post 9544, 972 Sheldon Street, West Suffield, CT. The meeting will commence at 10:00am. I hope you all can attend – bring a new member with you!

PLEASE NOTE: The date for the fourth District 3 meeting has changed. It will be held on Saturday, February 4, 2023 and will be the annual District 3 VOD/Patriot Pen awards breakfast. It will be held at Post 574, Plainville at 9:00am. Please note the date change!

The photo above is a wonderful example of what a Post or Auxiliary can do with a local merchant to promote the VFW to the community. The East Hartford Post is shown here at Jersey Mike's in Glastonbury with a staff member who clearly was happy they were there!

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

GENERAL NEWS:

- PLEASE work on bringing back your expired and unpaid members. As Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland's slogan says, "Every Veteran Counts." There are many ideas on how to do this in the most recent VFW Magazine or check in with any of the officers of District 3 who are happy to help.
- Post Commanders and Post Quartermasters are reminded to send AUDITS and PROGRAM REPORTS in a timely manner.
- 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" cookie collection and packing event, Sunday, December 4, 2022, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Hillstown Grange Hall, 617 Hills Street, East Hartford. Cookies will be collected from 12 noon to 1:00 pm and packing should be completed by 3:00 p.m. This event is basically a 'cookie exchange' except all the cookies are sent to Soldiers stations around the world away from home for the Holidays. The group is looking for donations of homemade and store-bought cookies. We are looking for quality and not quantity. No store brand cookies please, go for the good stuff like Oreo's. Popular items are Christmas, New Years and winter theme drawings. Volunteers are needed starting at noon to sort donations and pack the boxes. We are running low on names and addresses of Soldiers stationed overseas so if you know one please let me know. Also postage for this event is about \$1,000 and donations are needed to cover that and checks can be made out to SOS-Connecticut and mailed to: SOS-CT. c/o Frank Forrest, 165 Maple Street, East Hartford, CT 06118. This is a great event to support our Troops stationed away from home for the Holidays and organizations that are interested in helping, please contact us. 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.
- On September 28 Hurricane Ian, a category 4 storm, made landfall in Florida. The Dept. of FL Auxiliary immediately began to work with local Posts and Auxiliaries to help with relief efforts. There are more than 35,000 Auxiliary members and more than 1.5 million veterans living in Florida. They have a fund to assist. Donations may be made to: "FL Disaster Relief" c/o Dept. of FL Auxiliary, Linda Burnette, Treasurer, P.O. Box 7359, Hudson, FL 34674.

POST NEWS:

Post 8776, Hebron, submitted by John Gasper, Quartermaster

- The Post had a poppy drive for Veterans Day and participated in a Veterans Day Parade.
- RHAM High School invited all veterans to an assembly to talk about their experiences
- The Senior Center invited all veterans to a breakfast in honor of their service
- The Post is planning an event for children of veterans to build models together.

Post 10689, Ellington, submitted by Commander Bruce Warkentin



Present for the presentation to Kid Safe CT are (L-R): Past Cmdr. Ted Graziani holding grandson Lucas; Post Cmdr. Bruce Warkentin; Jerry Bundy, Director with Robin Kohler, Executive Dir, Kids Safe

- The Post donated \$100 to Kid Safe CT, a program that helps educate adults about the many issues children face when their family situation changes.
- On Oct. 8 Post members attended a ceremony in Hartford at the Governor's Foot Guard Armory to honor Laotian Special Forces with a Connecticut Wartime Service Medal for their service as a U.S. Special Guerrilla Unit in Vietnam.
- The Post received 24 Patriot Pen essays from Ellington Schools.
- The Post participated in the Veterans Day ceremonies at Ellington High School and the annual 11am ceremony for the Town.
- The Post will participate in the annual Wreaths Across America event on Saturday, December 17 at 12 noon.
- Later in November the Post will be distributing grocery gift cards to local veterans and their families in Ellington, Tolland and Vernon.

Post 574, Plainville, submitted by Commander Dave Dudek

- The Post invites all veterans to a free breakfast on Wednesday, Nov. 16 at 9:00 a.m. provided by the Plainville Rotary and Scoops for Troops. Donations can be made to Scoops for Troops during the breakfast. The Post is located at 7 Northwest Drive.

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

- On September 11th East Hartford held its annual statewide 9/11 ceremony at the Fallen Star Memorial on the campus of Goodwin College. The Commissioner of State of Connecticut Veterans Affairs, Thomas Saadi, was a guest speaker. The color guard consisted of members of the East Hartford Fire and Police Departments including military veterans.



- On September 16 the Post and Support Our Soldiers CT sponsored an End-of-Summer Picnic. The event was held at the Hillstown Grange in East Hartford from 6 - 8 PM. The weather was perfect and good time was had by all. All Veterans of the US Armed Forces, as well as the general public, were invited to the free end of summer cookout. Hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, desserts and refreshments were served. This was a

great opportunity for Veterans to meet, socialize and enjoy a dinner with comrades who have all answered the call to serve their Nation. Spouses, caregivers, and significant others also attended. In addition, we had some notable visitors, including East Hartford Mayor Michael P. Walsh, known to all as "Mayor Mike." The Mayor has given strong support to Veterans since taking office. Restarting East Hartford's Memorial Day parade, the first in six years, was a huge effort, but it all went off without a hitch. Mayor Mike also joined us at Center Cemetery on Main Street to place flags at the gravesites of Veterans all the way back to the American Revolution. The Mayor gave a short speech, stating some of his plans for the future of East Hartford. Also present was Matt Harper, a candidate for election to the 3rd District State Senate seat. A Gramma's cream pie was presented to the oldest Veteran in attendance, Jim S. The pie was presented to him by the Mayor. Following the picnic clean-up, a presentation on Veteran's addiction and suicide prevention was giving by Kyle Forrest. Such an important topic and we only had 4 people in attendance. This presentation is posted on our Facebook and website.



Mayor Mike is shown here presenting a Cream Pie to the oldest Veteran in attendance.



VFWCT District 3 Commander Lee Wilson and his Grill Crew



VFW Post 2083 Officers Rich Bates (Quartermaster-left rear), Tim Gleason (Jr. Vice Cmdr), Frank Forrest (Commander) and Ted Kowzun (Trustee). Post member Art Parker and Matt Harper, Candidate for State Senate District 3 are standing in front of Rich.

Post 1926, Simsbury, submitted by Commander Lee Wilson



Post Commander Lee Wilson and Member Peter Van Loon with Cameron Seely, Tractor Supply employee and Army veteran

The Post held a three-day event to commemorate the national POW/MIA weekend with an information table outside the newly opened Tractor Supply in Simsbury, September 16-18th. All donations received benefitted the VFW Veterans Military Support (VMS) Services program and the soon-to-open National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum located at the former Naval Air Station Cecil Field, Master Jet Base (1941-1999) currently known as Cecil Commerce Center in Jacksonville, FL.

The Post members held their annual Veterans Day Poppy Drive outside a local food store over the weekend of November 4-6. All donations received benefitted the Sgt. Felix Del Greco Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The Post has their annual NEW Clothing Drive for Veterans running from November 11 to December 11 at five locations in Simsbury, including Simsbury High School.

Post members visited Simsbury High School for their annual "Pen-A-Thon" which ran for 22 hours (to remember the 22 veterans a day who commit suicide) from Nov. 10-11. Students work continuously hand crafting wooden ball point pens on lathes and with special tools in the technology and engineering workshop. Pens are donated to veterans in the area. Some veterans who visited worked along side students on the lathes making their own pens.