



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Connecticut

District 3 Newsletter #5

March 2023

Thank you to all who joined us at the last District 3 meeting for the Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen Awards Ceremony. The parents and students were pleased to meet everyone. While only two of the six winners attended, you can see how happy they were in these photos to win these awards.



Christopher Porter, senior, Lewis S. Mills High School won third place for Voice of Democracy



Nate Stillman, Freshman, Windsor High School won second place for Voice of Democracy

The next District meeting is this Saturday, March 11 beginning with coffee at 9:30am at Post 2183, 3272 Main Street, Rocky Hill. We have a full agenda and it would be great if every Post sends at least one member. This is the last meeting before our Elections in May.

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

GENERAL NEWS:

- **START PLANNING NOW** for the VFW Service Day on Saturday, May 6. This is an all community event and some Posts plan for events all week long. I hope you will share with us in the next newsletter what your plans are so we can learn from each other. Best practices are always best shared!
- **PLEASE** work on bringing back your expired and unpaid members. As Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland's 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.

- The SCOUT OF THE YEAR PROGRAM – Due by April 1 - One candidate with full entry criteria must be submitted by a VFW Post to the next level of judging. Contact Lee Wilson for information on how to do this.
- Post Commanders and Post Quartermasters are reminded to send AUDITS and PROGRAM REPORTS in a timely manner.
- REMINDER: All Posts must have Officer nominations in March with Elections of Officers in April. Plan accordingly.
- VFW State Convention is June 9-11 at the Sheraton Hartford South Hotel in Rocky Hill. Here is the link with full details: <https://vfwct.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=64327>
- Did you know that there is an almost 40-year national program named in 2011 as “Purple Up Day” held annually in April to recognize, honor and support children of military families? Nationally held on April 15 (yes, tax day) Governor Lamont has chosen Thursday, April 27 as “Purple Up Day in Connecticut.” To find out more about Purple Up Day and to get ideas about how to commemorate military kids in your community, visit: <https://nationaltoday.com/purple-up-day/>



This is a photo of the now famous “Hot Chocolate” volunteers at the Newington VA Hospital. This addition to the coffee cart in the lobby features a machine that makes Ghirardelli hot chocolate with flavors added, including marshmallows! Launched this winter, this seasonal only treat is potentially a “first” in the whole VA healthcare system. Notice the Buddy Poppy aprons as an added touch! Congratulations and thanks to everyone for providing this service to our veterans and visitors.

- The VFW Auxiliary Department of CT is holding its ANNUAL AUCTION on Saturday, March 25 with a hot lunch at 12 noon followed by the auction at 1:30pm at the Jewett City Post #10004, 263 Taylor Hill Rd., Jewett City, CT. Everyone is welcome to attend! They are looking for NEW or GENTLY USED household goods and small working appliances for the auction. The hot lunch is \$13 per person – Roast beef, potatoes, green beans, salad, bread and dessert. To reserve your seat for the meal or to donate items, contact Anne Philippon, Department Treasurer, 12 Baldwin Drive, Bristol, CT 06010.

- The VFW Auxiliary Department of CT is holding a raffle of a hand painted wooden fireplace screen. (see below) The screen is 29" wide x 21" high. Tickets are \$5.00 each. The Drawing will be held at their quarterly meeting in April. To purchase tickets, please send the donation to: Anne Philippon, Department Treasurer, 12 Baldwin Drive, Bristol, CT 06010. Good luck!!!



POST NEWS:

Post 2138, Rocky Hill, submitted by Melissa Michaud, Adjutant

- We have darts competition on Wednesdays during their team season.
- We have Setback league every Thursday at 7pm.
- We collaborate with the Rocky Hill Fire Dept. by inviting them in on a normally closed evening to hang out (chill with us) after their drill on Tuesday nights.
- We collect food donations for a local assisted living facility.
- As Veteran's Outreach Coordinator at Middlesex Community College, I (Melissa) market all our events to student veterans.
- Please join us at any or all of our events...including STEAK NIGHT! No RSVP needed. See the next page for details of this very popular community event!

STEAK NIGHT

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT

AT THE VFW - ROCKY HILL CT POST - 2138

PREMIUM QUALITY SIRLOIN STEAK
BAKED POTATO, SALAD, DINNER ROLL.



FROM 6PM

ONLY
\$15

SUPPORT
YOUR
VETERANS



VFW
NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.
BENNINO-BECK POST-2138
ROCKY HILL CT.



Post 511, New Britain, submitted by Commander Daniel Luty – everyone invited!



Post 10689, Ellington, submitted by Commander Bruce Warkentin

- The Post will participate in the annual Ellington Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony on Monday, May 29 beginning at Ellington High School at 10:30am. They are hoping to have a Gold Star Family member be the Keynote speaker at the Ceremony. And they are working on having a flyover for the parade.
- The Post will attend the Flag Day Ceremony on Thursday, June 15 at the Ellington Volunteer Fire Department.

Post 1926, Simsbury, submitted by Commander Lee Wilson

- The Post, with the permission of the Simsbury Volunteer Fire company, has built a US Flag Retirement Platform behind the Weatogue Fire House, 251 Hopmeadow Street (Route 10), in the southern part of Simsbury. The Post received donations for this project from Connecticut Water Company, Abigail Phelps Chapter of the DAR, UNICO of Avon (for a shed to be placed nearby to store flags and Post equipment) and has a grant request pending with the Simsbury Junior Women's Club. This platform can be used by any service organization for a formal US flag retirement ceremony. The inaugural ceremony for this platform, open to the public, will be Saturday, May 6 – VFW Service Day - at 3:00pm, weather permitting. Over 1,000 used US flags have been collected by the VFW over the past two years through boxes placed in four locations around the town. It is believed to be the only permanent US flag retirement platform in the Farmington Valley.



Newly built US Flag Retirement Platform in Simsbury

- A Simsbury High School senior has asked the Post to participate with her at a Purple Up Day event on Thursday, April 27 at the high school. She is inviting all military families and their children to an evening event to honor them. Purple Up, as explained on Page 2, is a national day to honor those who have parents serving in our Armed Forces.
- The Post will be holding their annual three-day Buddy Poppy Drive in May and will participate in the Simsbury Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony. US Flags will be placed in cemeteries just before the holiday by the Post and Simsbury American Legion.
- Post Commander Lee Wilson and Quartermaster Jon Blume represented Post 1926 and District 3 at the 103rd Air National Guard Yellow Ribbon Program Post Deployment at the Mystic Marriott on February 22. They were joined by Sherry Wozniak, National Veterans & Military Service Chair, where they met with the “Flying Yankees” upon their return from a tour of duty. In between the many breakout sessions, the VFW District 3 table was busy explaining the benefits of joining the VFW and what services the Post and District can provide. It was a long but beneficial day for returning service members and their families.