



Connecticut

## District 3 Newsletter #2

September 2023

Hello everyone! Thank you to everyone who attended the District 3 Picnic in July for our first meeting of the year. It was a good event that seems to get better each year! I was personally pleased to have with us District 3 Scout of the Year, Christopher Porter, and his parents. Special thanks to Manny Rodrigues who gave his “special” Scout talk to Chris encouraging his continued community service throughout his life.



Scout of the Year Christopher Porter with his mother Marie, and father Stephen, accepting the award from Lee Wilson, VFW District 3 Commander

The next District 3 meeting will be next Saturday, September 9 at VFW Bennino-Beck Post 2138, 3272 Main Street, Rocky Hill. Coffee at 9:30am. State Commander Richard DiFederico will be attending and I ask you all to show respect for his office.

Tomorrow, Sept. 2, I am a Guardian for a veteran for the Honor Flight Connecticut to Washington, DC. I was sponsored by VFW Lt. C.C. Robinson Post 254, Hartford. I am paired with U.S. Navy Retired Lt. Commander James Tierney of West Hartford. Jim is 97 years old, serving from the end of WWII, through the Korean War and into the Vietnam War. He served for 23 years. I will share my experience in the next newsletter. It is an honor to travel with so many wonderful veterans who served before I did. To learn from them is an experience I will never forget.

Lee Wilson, District 3 Commander – 860-798-3562 [cmd@vfwctdist3.org](mailto:cmd@vfwctdist3.org)

## GENERAL NEWS:

- The Annual CT Department of Veterans Affairs STAND DOWN will take place on Friday, September 22 from 8:00 – 2:00pm at five regional sites – Bridgeport, Bristol, Danbury, Norwich and Rocky Hill. VOLUNTEERS are needed at all sites. Contact Judith Barnes at 860-537-0612 to sign up or for more information.
- PLEASE work on bringing back your expired and unpaid members. There are many ideas on how to do this in any of the VFW Magazines or check in with any of the officers of District 3 who are happy to help.
- **Post Commanders and Quartermasters are reminded to send AUDITS & PROGRAM REPORTS on time. And...GET YOUR POST BONDED immediately!**
- As some of you may have heard, the Buddy Poppy has changed. This is a photo of the new, thin metal one that you can purchase in bulk. The fabric poppies are still available but at a higher price. It is 2 ¼” in size, as you can see next to this pen.



- National has released the themes for the Voice of Democracy (VOD) and Patriot Pen (PP) essay contests. REMEMBER the deadline for Post winners comes up fast – October 31. Please reach out to your schools NOW to let them know this contest exists. WE NEED MORE STUDENTS TO WRITE AND SUBMIT. The themes are:
  - VOD – **What Are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?** Here’s the link to the application to send to the high schools: <https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Community/Youth-and-Education/Voice-of-Democracy-Entry-Form-Fillable.pdf?v=1&d=20180316T180558Z&la=en>
  - PP – **How Are You Inspired by America?** Here is the link to application to send to your middle/junior high schools: <https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Community/Youth-and-Education/Patriots-Pen-Entry-Form-Fillable.pdf?la=en&v=1&d=20230306T234856Z>

## POST NEWS:

Post 2138, Rocky Hill – Everyone is welcome to this weekly event; bring the family!



Post 2083, East Hartford, submitted by Frank Forrest, Commander

- Support Our Soldiers/SOS-Connecticut is sponsoring a “Support our Troops event” with a Halloween candy and dental supplies collection and packing event, Sunday, October 8, 2023, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., Hillstown Grange Hall, 617 Hills Street, East Hartford. We will sort and pack items to send to our Soldiers who will miss Halloween and the Fall Season with family and friends. This is our Halloween treat boxes so any cards, drawings, and letters to the Troops to place in the boxes would be great, especially: fall leaves, ghosts, pumpkins, and apples drawings from schools. Special items needed are items to make Smores. We have a donation of fire starters that make great mini fires for making smores, now we need marshmallows, chocolate, 12-inch skewers and graham crackers. We are making 20 boxes to send so we need at least 40 boxes of crackers and 20 bags of marshmallows. Volunteers are needed to sort and pack. We always try to collect dental supplies to include in our 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 \$800 and donations are needed to cover the cost; 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](mailto:sosconnecticut@aol.com)



**Post 3272, Avon**, highlighted from an article in the *VALLEY PRESS*, August 18, 2023

- The Post announced the start of its Afghan Refugee Resettlement Project. The mission is to resettle an Afghan family whose members helped US forces during military operations in Afghanistan. They are working with the Integrated Refugee and Immigration Services (IRIS) which has provided a blueprint that explains their part of the co-sponsorship. They need to recruit volunteers to work in teams to obtain housing and employment for the family, medical care, furniture, clothing and certain cultural assistance. The Post has a goal of raising \$20,000 to do this humanitarian work. Any Post, VFW member or auxiliary interested in helping with this important effort, please contact Tim Healy, Commander, Post 3272 at 860-693-9744 or [tim.healy@comcast.net](mailto:tim.healy@comcast.net)

**Post 1926, Simsbury**, submitted by Jon Blume, Quartermaster

- The Post will hold a POW/MIA Remembrance Weekend event on September 16 & 17 at the Simsbury Veterans Memorial on Hopmeadow Street (Route 10) in the center of Simsbury. It will be from 10:00am – 2:00pm. We will set up a Missing Man table on the plaza also. Everyone is invited to participate.
- The Post will hold an inaugural US Flag Retirement ceremony at the newly built platform behind the Weatogue Fire Station, 251 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury on Saturday, October 14 at 3:00pm. Special thanks to Tuff Shed®, through Home Depot Foundation, for donating an 8' x 8' shed to be placed near the platform for the storage of flags and other VFW and American Legion equipment. Monetary donations for building materials were provided by UNICO National – Avon, CT Chapter, Abigail Phelps Chapter DAR in Simsbury, Aquarion Water Company and the VFW Metacomet Post 1926 and American Legion Tomalonis-Hall Post 84, both of Simsbury. Thousands of US flags have been collected by the VFW through permanent collection boxes placed in four public spaces in town. The Retirement of Old Colors ceremony will be from the Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies of The American Legion. The public is welcome to attend.



New U.S. Flag Retirement Platform in Simsbury



## ~ Rent-A-Space Tag & Vendor Sale ~

Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> 9:00am – 3:00pm

VFW Smalley Brothers

## ~ Auxiliary Post 6123 ~

36 Fairview Street, Windsor Locks

Fun For All Ages with Bake & Craft Sales, Face Painting,  
Games, Music, and MORE !



\$20.00 Per Parking / Space Register by Contacting Becca Mockalis

[becca.mockalis@gmail.com](mailto:becca.mockalis@gmail.com) / 860-817-1836

~ Deadline: Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> ~

\*Featuring\*VFW Auxiliary Programs for the Community  
along with Membership Opportunities