



VFW DEVON POST 7788

Volume 2, Issue 3

WWW.VFW7788.ORG

MAY/JUNE 2008

COMMANDERS CORNER

It has been my great pleasure to serve you and our Post these last three years, first as your Post Quartermaster, and then for two terms as your Post Commander. Together, we have accomplished many good things for veterans and our community. We should all be especially proud of the support we have been able to show our hospitalized veterans and overseas troops. We have sent hundreds of packages to our local troops stationed overseas. We have spent many hours with our disabled and hospitalized veterans. We have raised thousands of dollars for phone cards to help our troops stay connected with their loved ones.

I am very proud that we were able to charter a new Men's Auxiliary and that I was here to see our Ladies Auxiliary move into the future with a renewed enthusiasm. With all our projects, we still found some time for building improvements, to develop one of the best Websites in the VFW, and to work with the Scouts and other community service organizations. Together, we have done more than I can account for in the short space provided here, and I have enjoyed the experience of working with each of you more than I can say. While we have accomplished much together, there is much left to do. Please join me in welcoming and supporting our new VFW Post 7788 Commander, Tim Mead. Thank you so very much for all the support you have given me.

Respectfully,

Greg Smith

Commander VFW Post 7788

UP COMING EVENTS

INSTALLATION OF POST & AUXILIARY OFFICERS Saturday
May 17, 2008

POPPY DRIVE,
Fri. Sat. & Sun.
May 15, 16, & 17

FLAGS ON THE GRAVES Saturday
May 24, 2008 8:00 am

MEMORIAL DAY,
Wreath Ceremony
and Parade,
Sunday May 25th

STATE VFW CONVENTION,
ROCKY HILL, CT
June 13, 14, 15TH

DEPLOYED TROOPS

The following VFW Post 7788 Family members are deployed overseas.

IORELLA, John
LOEFFLER, Jim
MARCUM, Jr. Jim
REYES, Karen,
RASEMAN, Sebastien
Please say a Prayer for their safety

- RETURNED -
HERKNER, Steve
MURRY, Jay
DAWID, Kevin

Welcome Home



VFW
POST
7788
AT
WORK

A COMMANDERS WORK IS NEVER DONE

Post 7788 Commander **Greg Smith** and his Wife **Christine** attending the 2008 National VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, DC.

Photo by Christine Smith

MEN'S AUXILIARY

Meets the 4TH Tuesday at 7:00 pm

This is always the busiest time of year for the VFW, with election of officers, Day for a Vet, poppy drive, Installation Day, Memorial Day Parade, State Convention, etc. There is plenty of work to do, and always a need for our Auxiliary support.

With the next election of Officers, it appears that you will have a new Aux. President. I would like to thank all of you for the honor and privilege of serving in this office from the inception of our organization. I also would like to thank my fellow Officers for all their help and support. I hope I will be allowed to continue serving the Aux. in any way I can. See you at the next meeting.

Yours in camaraderie,
Sincerely,
Jim Shea, President Men's Auxiliary

Eulogy

The entire VFW Post 7788 family and I are deeply saddened by the loss of Chaplain **Bill Gambino and Chaplain Frank Peregrim**. During my years at our Post I have had the privilege of serving the membership with these two fine gentlemen who were always there for their fellow Veterans.

These two dedicated men defined the meaning of Chaplain, and made sure any deceased Member was properly honored by performing the appropriate ritual for their Family and loved ones. This they both accomplished with compassion, dignity, and class. In each case, these honorable men were forced to leave their post due to illness, which ultimately took them away from us.

All who knew them will miss their friendly smile, and their wonderful dedication to their duty of office.

Jim Shea

CANTEEN NEWS

Canteen Opens at 2:00 pm Weekdays
12:00 pm Weekends
(203) 874-9982

Free Hot Dogs & Hamburgers at the Canteen Sunday May 25, 2008 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm to celebrate Milford's Memorial Day celebration and to honor our Veterans. Our Canteen will be open to all Veterans and their Guests. Try the "VETERAN'S" drink special \$4.50 on the rocks.

SANDWICHES AT THE CANTEEN

Every Saturday afternoon from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm we have heaping portions of Roast Beef sandwiches on a hard roll, at the Canteen, with a side of macaroni salad and hot peppers, \$3.00 per sandwich. Come on down and enjoy one with a cold beer.

NEW AT THE CANTEEN

Bartender, **Paula Sefcik**, works Wednesday day shift, Thursday evening, and Saturday evening, Come on down and say hello to Paula. **Bring your friends and enjoy your Canteen.**

Mark Your Calendars VFW CONNECTICUT STATE CONVENTION



REMEMBER THE FUN LAST YEAR

Plan to attend again this year at the Marriott Hotel in Rocky Hill, CT. To reserve your own room, call 1-800-228-9290 (Rocky Hill Marriott) and ask for the \$92/per night VFW Convention rate.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Greg Smith

Post Commander
gmsmith@snet.net
 (203) 876-2451

Jim Shea

President Men's Auxiliary
jimjo@optonline.net
 (203) 378-5522

Joan Rousseau

President Ladies Auxiliary
jr111155@aol.com
 (203) 877-0584

Eric Rousseau

Post Quartermaster
jr111155@aol.com
 (203) 877-0854

Karen Reyes Benzi- Deployed

Post Service Officer
kmreyes18@hotmail.com
 (203) 521-3633

Tim Mead

Post Adjutant
k9hdlr69@msn.com
 (203) 878-0794

Janet Mead

VA Bingo Chairperson
janetm48@msn.com
 203-878-0794



SICK CALL

Mary-Ann Nichols recovering from a broken collarbone.

Al Carlson who is recovering from a case of severe arthritis in his ankle.

Bob Broadly recovering from a stomach operation and is home.

Pat Cicarelli Nicotine withdrawal.

TAPS

Beutel, Leo Ellsworth age 82, 02/27/2008, US Navy WWII

Gambino, Bill age 78 Past Post Chaplin and VSVA Service Officer, 02/27/2008 US Navy Korea.

Kasson Jr, James G., age 87 12/20/2007 .

Peregrim, Frank age 83 Past Post Chaplin, 04/16/2008

"The Greatest Generation" is passing. Thank Them Now.



REST IN PEACE OUR COMRADES

NEW POST OFFICERS ELECTED AS OF JUNE 2008

COMMANDER - Tim Mead
Sr. VICE. CMDR. - Al Numon
JR. VICE CMDR. - Jay Murry
QUARTERMASTER
Eric Rousseau
CHAPLAIN - Guy Piselli
POST ADVOCATE
Larry Chadbourne
POST SURGEON
Jim Goldstein, Sr.

POST TRUSTEE
3 yr. Greg Smith
2 yr. Don Larue

Board of Directors
Jim Killeen 3 year
Bob Raynor 2 year

APPOINTED OFFICERS

POST ADJUTANT
Bob Paddock
OFFICER OF THE DAY
Fred Reidenbach
POST SERVICE OFFICER
Karen Reyes-Benzi

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

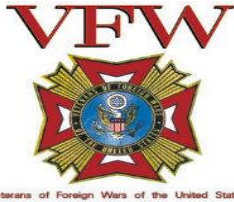
MAY 13
 1:45 pm to 7:00 pm
 Upstairs Hall
July 8
 1:45 pm to 7:00 pm
 Upstairs Hall



MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO FALLEN HEROES

Saturday June 14, 2008 starting at 12:00 pm and lasting TILL. Free Music (bands to be announced), will perform at the Band Shell in Seaside Park Bridgeport, CT. Baseball Game between the Old Geezers and the Young Bucks and Free food and refreshments will be served at the Baseball game to any and all. Tommy Johns

former NY Yankee will throw out the first pitch. For your entertainment BMI recording artist "Kristy Jackson" and Miss Connecticut "Dana Daunis" to perform. US. Army "The Black Dragons" parachute team to jump into the field at Seaside Park in Bridgeport, CT. This is a day that we honor our Connecticut fallen Heroes. If you are not attending the VFW State Convention, plan on attending this event open to all Sikorsky employees and the public.



422 Naugatuck Avenue
Devon, Connecticut
06460
Phone: 203-874-9982
Web Site: www.vfw7788.org
E-mail: info@vfw7788.org
webmaster@vfw7788.org

WERE ON THE WEB
www.VFW7788.ORG

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is Never Free”**

**To Advertise here
contact**

Jim Goldstein at
jhgolds@optonline.net

VFW DEVON POST
7788 Publishes the
Newsletter six times a
year every other month.

It is not the price of the
dues you pay to be a
Member of the VFW.
It is the Price You Paid

Welcome Home

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**They Support the VFW
We Support Them**



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DEMOLITION CONTRACTORS**

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Christopher Godek - Manager

P.O. Box 5395, Milford, CT 06460 • E-Mail: NEYC@aol.com

Steamatic of Central Connecticut

11 Leonardo Dr
North Haven, CT 06473

(203) 907-4016



Photo by Jim Goldstein

**TWO MERRY SOULS AT OUR ST. PAT'S
PARTY MARCH 8, 2008. Chuck and Kevin**

MEETINGS
**Board of
Directors**
1st Monday of the
Month 7:00 pm.

VFW Members
3rd Monday of
the Month 7:00
pm, None July or
August

Ladies Auxiliary
3rd Tuesday of
the month 7:00
pm

Men's Auxiliary
4th Tuesday of
the Month 7:00
pm, None July or
August

**VA Hospital
Visit**
4th Wednesday
of the month
leaves Post at
6:30 pm.
Volunteers
Welcomed

Canteen Cmte.
2nd & 4th
Tuesdays of the
month 7: pm



VFW 7788 3rd ANNUAL POKER RUN SUNDAY JULY 13, 2008



Last year approximately seventy-five motorcycle riders participated in the event. You had old bikers, young bikers, female bikers, Grandma and Grandpa Bikers participate in the “Run”. The course covered approximately ninety miles taking the riders through some of Connecticut’s most scenic areas and popular summer destinations. The riders made checkpoints along the way at selected VFW Posts and enjoyed the comrade and spirit of these brother VFW’s.

After the “Run” is completed, the riders will be treated to a picnic featuring Roast Beef, fried potatoes, Texas Chili, salads, hamburgers, and hot dogs. Winners for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, place
Pre-registration \$20.00 now! \$25.00 at the door \$10.00 additional rider, \$5.00 additional Poker Hand, Purchase your tickets at the Canteen. Sign Up Now!

VFW 7788 MAY 2008 EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 BINGO 5:30 PM	2	3 Sandwiches 12 pm – 3 pm
4	5 B.O.D. MEETING 7:00 PM	6	7	8 BINGO 5:30 PM	9	10 Sandwiches 12 pm – 3 pm
11	12	13 Canteen Mtg. 7PM Red Cross Blood Drive 1 pm	14	15 BINGO 5:30 PM	16 	17 Installation of Officers 7:00 Sandwiches 12 pm – 3 pm
18 	19	20 Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 7pm	21	22 BINGO 5:30 PM	23	24 Sandwiches 12 pm – 3 pm
25 Milford Parade 1 pm Memorial Day	26	27 Men's Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 pm Canteen Mtg. 7PM	28	29 BINGO 5:30 PM	30	31 Sandwiches 12 pm – 3 pm

VFW 7788 JUNE 2008 EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 B.O.D. MEETING 7:00 PM	3	4	5 BINGO 5:30 PM	6	7 Sandwiches 12 pm – 3 pm
8	9	10 Canteen Mtg. 7  Plan to attend the VFW State Convention →	11	12 BINGO 5:30 PM	13 VFW State Convention	14 VFW Convention Fallen Heroes Day 12p
15 VFW Convention	16 VFW MEETING 7:00PM	17 Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm	18	19 BINGO 5:30 PM	20	21 Sandwiches 12 pm – 3 pm
22	23	24 Men's Auxiliary Meeting 7pm Canteen Mtg. 7 pm	25 VA Hospital Visit 7 pm	26 BINGO 5:30 PM	27 	28 PIG ROAST 12:00 PM. ↑
29	30					

TRAVIS KITCHENS
Charter Member VFW Devon Post 7788
Article by Chuck Stempert



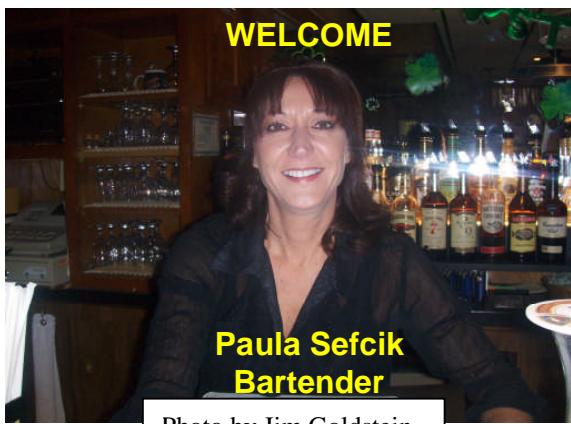
Photo by
Jim Goldstein

Born in 1922, **Travis Kitchens** hailed from Tupelo Mississippi, which also gave us Elvis Presley. He has four sisters and three brothers. Kitch joined the Army Air Force during the Second World War and was wounded on the Island of Iwo Jima. Afterwards, he was shipped back to an Army Hospital, in the United States, where he lost the use of an eye due to his wounds.

Kitch has the honor of becoming one of our Post's Charter members in 1946. His knowledge of carpentry as well as his talent as a contractor, along with other World War II Veterans, really came in handy during the initial construction of our Post. They built this Post with volunteers and heart, but with very little material or money. It has been refurbished again and again, adding all the facilities that presently constitute the building you see today. He also has held many different positions and is currently the Chairman of Building and Grounds.

We are all grateful for his friendship, dedication, as well as the knowledge, expertise, and guidance Kitch has provided all through the early years and into the present. We also know we can count on him to help this Post to advance into the next decade.

Thank God we got Kitch instead of Elvis.



WELCOME

Paula Sefcik
Bartender

Photo by Jim Goldstein



PIG ROAST

Mark your calendars for Saturday June 28, 2008 from 12:00 pm till? Our Post in cooperation with the **Wounded Warrior Project** will host a **Pig Roast** to benefit the Project. Tickets are on sale in the Canteen for **\$15.00** each (\$20. at the door), see the Bartender. This is for a good cause and will be a good time. **You can eat everything but the squeal.**



OCTOBERFEST PARTY

Get out your Lederhosen and tune up your OOMPH, we are going to have an Oktoberfest party on Saturday evening October 11, 2008. Dinner will be served from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm with Dancing from 8:00 pm to 12:00 am. There will be German style food, music and beer as well as a DJ for your entertainment. **Tickets will go on sale on August 2, 2008** and will be limited so first come first served. See the Bartender for your tickets.

\$15.00 ea. FUND RAISER



POPPY DRIVE
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Calling all VFW Members and Auxiliary Members, our Post will conduct it annual Poppy Drive on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, **May 13, 14, and 15th 2008.**

If you sign up now you can select your shift and date. We will be working two-hour shifts and need as many volunteers as we can get. The sign up sheet is in the Canteen on the activities board.

We will be at Shop Rite on Cherry Street in Milford. Collection times will be from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm each day.

The Poppy Drive benefits the Chaplain's Relief Fund and the Auxiliary VA Hospital Coupon Book Fund and VA Hospital visits food donation fund. We can use your help.

See Jim Killeen for Info.

Please Sign Up

CONDOLENCES TO ERIC ROUSSEAU

Our Post Quartermaster, **Eric Rousseau** recently lost his Sister to an illness. We extend our condolences and sympathies to Eric and his Wife Joan.

CONDOLENCES TO JANET MEAD

Our Post VA Hospital Bingo Chairperson, **Janet Mead**, lost her Mother to an illness last month; Estelle Sedlock was 91 years of age. We extend our condolences and sympathies to Janet and her Husband Tim.



INSTALLATION OF POST OFFICERS

The annual installation of VFW Devon Post 7788 Officers will take place on **Saturday May 17, 2008 at 7:00 pm** in the Upstairs Veterans Hall.

All VFW Members, Men's and Ladies Auxiliary Members and their guests are invited to attend the swearing in ceremonies.

Following the ceremony there will be coffee and cake, with the newly elected Post Commander, and his Officers. After which the Commander will retire to the Canteen and take part in a long established Post 7788 tradition.

Come and help support our newly elected Post Officers and Auxiliary Officers and wish them well in their year of office.

"You only get out of an Organization what you put into it"

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS SUMMER?

Are you going away this summer or staying around and enjoying our beautiful New England. Here are some VFW and Veterans activities that are taking place in our local area this summer. **Mark your calendars.**

JULY

Friday July 4th, VFW 7788 Canteen Open House Free Hot Dogs and Hamburgers in the Canteen 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Sunday July 6th, Milford **Parade**, Line up at 1:00 pm Wesson Field parking lot, Step Off at 2:00 pm. Come and March with us.

Sunday July 13th. 3rd Annual VFW 7788 Motorcycle Poker Run, registration starts 8:00 am. First Bike is out at 9:30 am. Picnic after.

AUGUST

American Legion Picnic, Post 196 Sunday August 10, 2008 in beautiful Woodmont by the Sea. Tickets available at AL Post 196 25 Merwins Lane Milford, CT.

Oyster Festival Saturday August 16, 2008, VFW Post 7788 will have an information booth at the festival. Fowler Field Milford, CT.

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 251 Picnic Saturday August 23, 2008, Largest Veterans Picnic in this area and always a good time. Eisenhower Park Milford, CT. 11:00 am

DID YOU KNOW

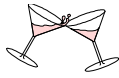
***The Veterans of Foreign Wars** was founded in Columbus, Ohio on Friday September 29, 1899, at 286 East Main Street in the Tailor shop of Francis Dubiel.

The Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW was founded in 1914 by women relatives of the Spanish-American War veterans. Early members saw their first responsibility as service to the veteran and his family. In an era when the government did little to assist its veterans, Auxiliary members ministered to the wounded in hospital and raised funds for needy veterans and their dependents.

MEN'S AUXILIARY NEW OFFICERS 2008

President - Michael Moens
Sr Vice - Kenneth Ruff
Jr Vice - Troy Ruff
Treasurer - Gerald Zabawa
Chaplain - Kelvin Norman
Trustee - Paul Miller

GOOD LUCK ON YOUR TERM OF OFFICE



ANNIVERSARIES:

MAY 2008

- 4 MARGE & CHUCK
STEMPERT 55 YRS.
- 15 KEN & DEBBIE
RUFF 26 YRS.
- 16 BOB & FLO BROADLEY 49
YRS.
- 17 CAROL & CLEM
WYPY 50 YRS.
- 28 MARY LEE & ARCHIE
FOGLER 52 YRS.



BIRTHDAYS:

MAY 2008

- 2 ERIC ROUSSEAU
- 3 EMERY LINTON
- 4 MARIE RODNEY
- 6 HOWIE KNAPP
- 7 JIM HESSBERGER
- 8 CLEM WYPY
- 11 BETTY BEATON
- 20 PAM HOLDEN
- 21 TIM MEAD
- 27 LAURA GALLATLY
- 28 STEVE JANES



ANNIVERSARIES:

JUNE 2008

- 2 BILL & FLO
GAMBINO 52 YRS.
- 22 FRANK & BARBARA
BUDA 45 YRS.
- 23 JANET & BOB
JANES 35 YRS.
- 29 SANDY & BOB
THOMAS 34 YRS.



BIRTHDAYS:

JUNE 2008

- 1 MARK MORIN
- 9 ROSEMARY DRAPP
- 17 LARRY PITCHER
- 26 LARRY CHADBOURNE
- 26 JACK NORRIS
- 27 JANET MEAD

**HOW TO RENT OUR
FACILITIES**

**Main Hall or Picnic Grounds
Rental**

Contact Kevin Norman (Leave
Message) (203) 877-9812 or
203-874-9775

CANTEEN LOUNGE

(For Parties up to 90)
Contact Al Carlson
(203) 874-9982 after 2pm

VFW POST 7788

NEW MEMBERS

- Paul Decava
- Thomas Kriston
- Robert Fichtner
- Brian Rastocky
- John Lyden
- Larry Kopchik
- WELCOME
VETERANS**

290/130 = 420

3rd Annual Poker Run Sunday July 13, 2008

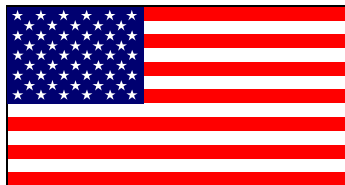
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