



VFW DEVON POST 7788

Volume 3, Issue 3

WWW.VFW7788.ORG

MAY / JUNE 2009

BUILDING FUND GOAL

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTORS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY

As of April 15, 2009 \$2,710

- ATRIAB, Alice**
- AUSTIN, Edward**
- BERAS, Stanley**
- BERUBE, Stephen**
- CHADBOURNE, Lawrence**
- CIOCCI, Ralph**
- CROWLEY, James**
- DONNELLY, Richard**
- GOLDSTEIN, Jim Sr.**
- GREGORY, Edward (Doyle Funeral Home)**
- HANBURY, Thomas**
- HOLLY, Donald**
- JANES, Robert**
- JEPSON, Alan**
- JOHNSON, Thomas**
- KILLEEN, James**
- LADIES AUXILIARY, Post 7788**
- LAUE, Kimberly**
- PETERSON, Diane**
- PEREGRIM, John**
- RAYNOR, Robert**
- ROGOWSKI, Edward**
- SALAMON, Frank**
- SHEA, James**
- SOSTAKO, George**
- STEMPERT, Charles**
- SUTYCK, Helen**
- WHARMBY, James**

OUR GOAL IS \$30,000

If you have already made your gift to our building fund - thank you! If you haven't done so yet, your help is still very much needed and we encourage you to please carefully consider participating to the best of your ability.

Donations may be mailed to Robert Janes,
Building Fund Chairperson, VFW Devon Post 7788
422 Naugatuck Avenue Milford, CT. 06460

UP COMING EVENTS

FLAGS ON THE GRAVES

**Saturday May 23, 2009
8:30 am**

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE - Milford

**Sunday May 24, 2009
Line up 1:00 pm, Step Off 2:00 pm.**

STATE VFW CONVENTION

**June 12, 13, and 14
Marriott Hotel Rocky Hill, CT.(See page #4)**

VFW POKER RUN

**Sunday July 12, 2009
(See article Page #7)**

VFW CAR SHOW

**Saturday August 1st,
2009 4 pm to 8 pm
Free Admission
(See article Page #7)**

DEPLOYED TROOPS

The following VFW Post 7788 Family members are deployed overseas.

RASEMAN, Sebastien McFARLAND, Ryan

Please say a Prayer for their safety

- RETURNED -

REYES-BENZI, Karen BENZI, William

HERKNER, Steve

FIORELLA, John

LOEFFLER, Jim

MURRAY, Jay

DAWID, Kevin

MARCUM, Jr. Jim

Welcome Home



**VFW
POST
7788
AT
PLAY**



Some of our Members and guests partying at the Post recent Saint Patrick's Dinner. Pictured above are (Center) Kenny and Debbie Ruff, (Right of Center)



Kim Rose and Kim Laue.
At left is the head Leprechaun and Post Commander Tim Mead, a good time was had by all.

MEN'S AUXILIARY

Meets the 4th Tuesday at 7:00 pm

Hello Everyone,

I would like to begin by thanking you all for your outstanding support of our Easter Ham Raffle. Our goal was 7 Hams in 7 Days (nice rhyme) However, the demand was so great that we were doing 2 a day, and for the Bingo night, 5 on just Thursday. Thanks again to Post 4225 in Florida where I discovered the strip off ticket idea. We will be doing something similar for other events and holidays, so watch for the flyers. If there is any special occasion or give away you would like to see, just let us know.

We are about to hold election of officers for the Post and Auxiliaries, so I would just like to wish all the candidates good luck. Remember, if you don't like the way someone does something, now is your time to step up and run for a position. Its easy to sit back and criticize the system, so here is your chance to step up and try it your way.

Good luck,

Mike Moens, President Men's Auxiliary

CANTEEN NEWS

Canteen Opens at 2:00 pm Weekdays

12:00 pm Weekends

(203) 874-9982

Alfred Carlson - Permittee

SANDWICHES AT THE CANTEEN

Every Saturday afternoon from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm we have, for sale, heaping portions of Roast Beef on a hard roll, with Potato Salad or Macaroni Salad, at the Canteen, Come on down and enjoy one with a cold beer or beverage of your choice.

FREE Hot Dogs and Hamburgers in our Canteen to celebrate Memorial Day Sunday May 24, 2009 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Come on down after the Milford Parade.

New additions to the Canteen inventory:

Miller 64, twelve ounce bottle, 2.4 Carbs. and only 64 Calories, and Patron Tequila.

Play some Pool, Play some Darts, Play the Video Bowling Machine, and Play our Internet Jukebox.

LADIES AUXILIARY

Meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm

I am sad to report the loss of our Dear Beloved Sister Janet Mead. She was a dedicated sister and dear friend to many of us. Hold her close to your hearts and pray for her and her family.

Another year of volunteering and fundraising and reporting is behind us!!

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to my Auxiliary sisters for your continued confidence and support over the last three years, and look forward to being your President again this year. I would like to congratulate all of our new officers this year. You are an excellent group of dedicated ladies and I am proud to work with you.

At this time we have achieved 83.95% membership and are hoping to get 100% by May 31st. We all should be very proud of the work we do and will continue to do. We need continuous growth and development, fresh new opinions and ideas.

PLEASE try to attend our meetings. They are held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month (excluding July and August) at 7p.m. in the upstairs hall. Enjoy some time with us, so that YOU can take part in our future!! I have confidence that EVERY member of this auxiliary will do their very best in making this next year another great success.

We have many functions that we need your help with, there is always something that you can do and I look forward to working with and getting to know all of you. Upcoming will be our Mother's Day Spa Basket which will be on display by the weekend of the 18th in the canteen and in June we will put together a Father's Day basket for a raffle!

Let's look to the future, work for our veteran's— Our Cherished Hero's—those who fought for our freedom.

Here's to another fantastic year!!!!

Sincerely,

Joan Rousseau, President, Ladies Auxiliary

2009 CANTEEN POOL TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS



Left: George Belzak, Right Eric Rousseau

Eric Rousseau won the 2009 VFW 7788 Pool Championship, **George Belzak** came in second and **Alex Carlson** came in third. Over a period of six weeks, Members and Auxiliary Members competed in a double elimination tournament. George said he is going to win next year, but Eric said "don't count on it".

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Tim Mead

Post Commander
k9hdr69@msn.com
(203) 878-0794

Bob Paddock

Post Adjutant
skipmy1@sbcglobal.net
(203) 878-8527

Eric Rousseau

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

Mike Moens

President Men's Auxiliary
mikemoens@aol.com
(203) 877-7814

Joan Rousseau

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

Karen Reyes Benzi

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

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Tuesday MAY 12, 2009
1:00 pm to 7:00 pm
VFW upstairs hall

Call: (203) 750-1107 to make
an appointment to donate.

Last
Month
70 Pints
Collected



Year to
Date
136 Pints
Collected



SICK CALL

Bob Broadly, home from
the Hospital.

Fran Bray, home from the
Hospital.

TAPS

BARON, George Jr. age
87 US Marine Corp. WWII
Died April 2, 2009. Life
Member.

JOY, Arthur age 86 US
Army Air Corp. WWII Life
Member. April 7, 2009.

MEAD, Janet (Jan) age 61
Ladies Auxiliary Died April
12, 2009.

**REST IN
PEACE OUR
COMRADES**



VFW 7788 BOWLING LEAGUE STANDINGS

CARLSON'S RAIDERS

High Score: 214
George Belzik

MEAD'S MARAUDERS

High Score: 226
Jeff Howard

TEAM STANDINGS

Carlson's Raiders
5 out of 6 games.

Mead's Marauders
1 out of 6 games

We play on Friday nights at
7 pm in the Canteen.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Sunday May 24, 2009
line up at Dan Wesson Field,
behind the Parsons Complex,
and we will step off at 2:00 pm.
It's an easy walk down hill to the
Milford Green and to the
Gazebo. Show PRIDE in your
Post and march with us. If you
have, Children or Grandchildren,
bring them with you. It's never
too late to learn why we march.
After the Parade come down to
VFW Devon Post 7788 Canteen
for free Hot Dogs and
Hamburgers (3:00 pm to 5:00
pm).



**SHOW PRIDE IN YOUR
VFW POST AND MARCH
WITH US**

FLAGS ON THE GRAVES

On Saturday May 23,
2009 our VFW Post will once
again place American Flags on
the graves of our departed
comrades and Veterans from all
Wars. We would like your help
and two hours of your time.

If you have children or
grandchildren please bring
them, it will be a good learning
experience for them.

We will meet at 8:30 am
by the flag pole in Kings
Highway Cemetery on Cherry
Street in Milford, CT.
Coffee and donuts will be
provided by our Canteen.
We do need your help!

VFW



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

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

**“The Price of Freedom
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

HAVING A SMALL PARTY?

Rent our Canteen Lounge, it's inexpensive, will seat 90 adults, and has its own Private Entrance, Band Stand and Mood lighting
Call Al Carlson after 2:00 pm 203-874-9982

CONNECTICUT VFW STATE CONVENTION

Friday June 12, Saturday June 13, and
Sunday June 14, 2009

Marriott Hotel in Rocky Hill, CT.

Contact the Hotel directly for your room reservation 1-800-817-3363 (Rocky Hill Marriott) and ask for the \$99/per night VFW Convention rate.

Help us win the Post competition for best hospitality suite, this years theme is
Hawaiian Nights

NOTICE: The installation of Post 7788 Officers and Auxiliary Officers will take place on Friday May 22, 2009. 7 pm. VFW Members, Auxiliary and Friends are urged to attend

**VFW 7788 ANNUAL
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Sunday August 2, 2009

Orchards Golf Club Milford, CT.
Four Person Scramble, Nine Holes
Tournament starts at 10:00 am.

Registration is a half hour prior to your starting time. Lunch approximately 1:30 pm at VFW 7788. \$60.00 per Golfer includes Green Fees, Lunch, Coffee at the Club House, Table Gifts, Awards. Please make checks payable to C. Stempert. 422 Naugatuck Ave. Milford, CT.
R.S.V.P. Deadline is July 26, 2009

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

WHY NOT RENT THE VFW HALL FOR YOUR NEXT FUNCTION

It is affordable to rent

Seats 166 people comfortably

Has a Kitchen facility available for your use

You may bring your own Liquor and Beer

It has its own wet bar, and Ice is available for a low cost

There is an area for a DJ or Band

It has a dance floor with variable lighting

Handicapped ramp

Heated and Air Conditioned

CONTACT PAT CICARELLI (203) 877-8481 OR (203) 874-9982 LEAVE A MESSAGE



VFW 7788 MAY 2009 EVENTS

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

VFW 7788 JUNE 2009 EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 B.O.D. MEETING 7:00 PM	2	3	4 BINGO 5:30 PM	5	6 D-Day + 65 yrs. Sandwiches 12 pm - 3 pm
7	8	9	10	11 BINGO 5:30 PM	12 VFW STATE CONVENTION	13 Sandwiches 12 pm - 3 pm VFW STATE CONVENTION
14 VFW STATE CONVENTION	15 VFW MEETING 7:00PM	16 Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm	17	18 BINGO 5:30 PM	19	20 Sandwiches 12 pm - 3 pm
21	22	23 Men's Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 pm	24 VA Hospital Visit 7 pm	25 BINGO 5:30 PM	26	27 Sandwiches 12 pm - 3 pm
28	28	30				



COMMANDERS CORNER

by Tim Mead



The VFW year is fast coming to a close and your Post has accomplished many goals, first of which was to reach 100%.

This is the third year in a row that we have achieved our membership goal, thanks to the two successful years by Past Commander Greg Smith, who helped a great deal in achieving it this year.

Just a reminder that at our April 20th meeting, we will be electing our new slate of Post Officers for the 2009-2010 year, Please try to attend this Post meeting if you can, and show your support for our new Officers, or run for an office yourself.

The Elevator Permit is progressing and hopefully we will begin construction very soon. This will aid our disabled members, so they can come down to the Canteen or Hall and reminisce with old friends. Greg Smith and Eric Rousseau are to be commended for the work and effort in getting this project completed.

Our Saint Patrick's dinner was a complete success, and all who attended had a great time. Thanks' go out to the Canteen Committee and Staff for their hard work at the dinner, stop by the Post Web site and see the photos (vfw7788.org).

In closing even though the Post has achieved it goal of 100%, I urge all members who have not paid their dues, to get them in before our Department Convention in June, as strength in numbers, is what gets the issues affective Veterans, accomplished.

Thank you all for the support you have shown me and my Officers this year. I could not have done it without the support of the Post membership. Thank You. Yours in Comradeship,

Tim Mead, Post Commander

ARE YOU A "RUPTURED DUCK"?

Officially, it was called the Honorable Service Lapel Button, but World War II veterans had their own name for it – the "Ruptured Duck".

Designed by Antonio DeFrancisci, an Italian American sculptor who also designed the National Guard insignia and the 1921 US Peace Dollar, the button was awarded between September 1939 and December 1946 to serviceman and women who were discharged under honorable conditions.

The button and its corresponding embroidered cloth insignia depicted an eagle with its left and right wings extended, respectively, inside and outside a wreath.

Since military personnel were prohibited from having civilian clothing during the war years, display of the cloth discharge insignia on the uniform permitted former servicemen and women a thirty-day period to travel freely and to transition back to civilian life without being considered AWOL or as deserters. The cloth emblem was worn sewn above the right breast pocket.

The button, manufactured in either gilt brass or, because of wartime metal shortages, gilt plastic, was intended for lapel ware on civilian attire after the thirty-day service to civilian transition period. Many former service members continued to wear the lapel button for years after the war's end.

One of the more likely presumptions is that the phrase referred to aircraft severely damaged by enemy fire yet able to be flown back home to base safely. Also plausible is that the phrase referred to a pilot or crew member shot down over enemy lines and was able to evade back to friendly territory.

Regardless of the true origins of its slangy label, the "Ruptured Duck" label pin and cloth insignia were highly prized and proudly worn by millions of World War II veterans. (Information taken from Call to Duty Army Historical Foundation).

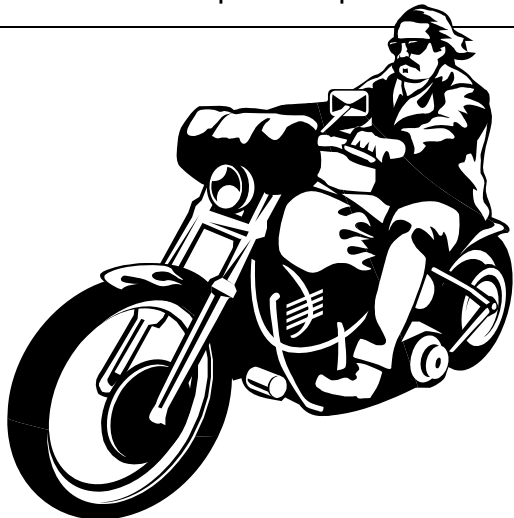
VFW 7788 4th ANNUAL POKER RUN

Sunday July 12, 2009 our Men's Auxiliary will again host the annual motorcycle poker run that raises funds for our Post and their Auxiliary unit.

Men's Auxiliary Vice President and event chairperson, Kenny Ruff, has mapped out a comfortable and scenic route through rural Connecticut, with checkpoints at local VFW Posts. There will be Coffee & Donuts before the Run, and prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners followed by a Roast Beef dinner, after the Run at our VFW Post.

Last year we had over one hundred and twenty five, (125), riders in the Run, this year we hope to get more. If you ride, or know of someone who rides, please help our Post and our Men's Auxiliary to raise some funds. Contact Kenny Ruff at (203) 395-9435 or e-mail him at druff1961@aol.com and sign up now for the Run.

Pre-registration NOW is \$20.00 for each rider \$10.00 for additional rider same bike. At the door \$25.00 per rider and \$10.00 for additional rider same bike, \$5.00 for extra Poker hand. This is a Fun Event, if you do not ride come early and see the many beautiful motorcycles on display before they take off on the Poker Run. Registration 8:00 am, 1st Bike out at 9:00 am, last Bike out at 10:00 am. All Bikes back by 1:30 pm. Best hand determined at 2:00 pm Sharp.



The Easy Rider
VFW Devon Post 7788

VFW 7788 CLASSIC CAR SHOW



FUND RAISER



Saturday August 1st, 2009 our VFW Post will host a Classic and Vintage Car Show in our parking lot. Local Car Clubs will display their vehicles for your viewing pleasure. You will be able to vote for the Best in Show, 2nd and 3rd place winners. **Admission is FREE**, we will have a DJ playing 50's and 60's tunes and there will be Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, and Sausage Peppers and Onions, Baked Beans, and Chili, available for Sale. Our Canteen will be open. Come on down on a fine summer's evening and enjoy yourself and your family and friends. This is a Post 7788 fund raiser for our Building Fund.



WHAT IS YOUR OPINION?

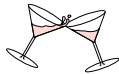
- #1 What do you suggest, that we can do, to attract younger Veterans to become members and have their family members to participate in VFW Devon Post 7788 actives and events?
- #2 What do you suggest we do to improve VFW Devon Post 7788?
- #3 What can you do to help our Post?

Please send your suggestions to Jim Goldstein
VFW Devon Post 7788
422 Naugatuck Avenue Milford, CT. 06460.

Remember: You only get out of an organization what you are willing to put into the organization.

Can you help with any of these activities?

BINGO _____
NEWSLETTER _____
PICNICS _____
DINNERS & RAFFLES _____
BUILDING & GROUNDS _____



ANNIVERSARIES:

MAY 2009

- 4 Marge & Chuck Stempert
- 6 Judy & Paul Miller
- 15 Debbie & Ken Ruff
- 16 Flo & Bob Broadley
- 17 Carol & Clem Wypy
- 28 MaryLee & Archie Fogler



BIRTHDAYS:

MAY 2009

- 2 Eric Rousseau
- 3 Emery Linton
- 5 Marie Rodney
- 6 Howie Knapp
- 7 Jim Hessberger
- 8 Clem Wypy
- 10 Bob Raynor
- 11 Betty Beaton
- 20 Pam Holden
- 21 Tim Mead
- 28 Steve Janes



ANNIVERSARIES:

JUNE 2009

- 22 Barbara & Frank Buda
- 23 Janet & Bob Janes
- 29 Sandy & Bob Thomas
- 30 Betty & Bob Raynor



BIRTHDAYS:

JUNE 2009

- 1 Mark Morin
- 6 John Boboc
- 9 Rosemary Drapp
- 17 Larry Pitcher
- 26 Larry Chadbourne
- 26 Jack Norris
- 28 Jan Mead

HOW TO RENT OUR FACILITIES

Main Hall or Picnic Grounds

Rental (For Parties Up to 166)

Contact Pat Cicarelli, (203) 877-8481 or 203-874-9982 after 2:00 pm, (Leave Message)

CANTEEN LOUNGE

(For Parties up to 90)

Contact Al Carlson
(203) 874-9982 after 2pm

VFW POST 7788

NEW MEMBERS

John A. Bennett
Victor Daily
Victor Daniels Men' Aux

WELCOME

VETERANS

279/112/=391

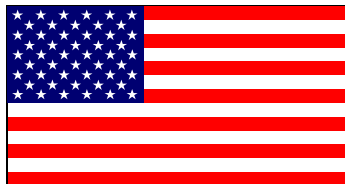
VFW DEVON POST 7788
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Milford, CT. 06460
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FREEDOM IS NEVER
FREE

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US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT No. 36
MILFORD, CT.



YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

"To those who fought for it, freedom has a taste that the protected shall never know." – General George S. Patton, Jr

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