

VFW Devon Post 7788
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Milford CT 06460
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TRAVIS C. KITCHEN POST 7788

www.vfw7788.org

July – August - September - 2014

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Annual Golf Outing



Monday, September 15th
Fairchild Wheeler Golf
Course



9th Annual Poker Run

Sunday July 13th

Proceeds to VFW Military
Assistance Program

Mark Your Calendar

July

- 4th Independence Day
- 13th Motorcycle Poker Run
- 19-23 115th VFW National Convention

August

1st

September

- 1st Labor Day
- 11th Patriot Day
- 15th Annual Golf Outing

October

- 4th Family Outing

PATRIOT DAY



Patriot Day falls on 11th September (also commonly known as 'Nine-Eleven') and is remembered globally as the anniversary of the catastrophic

terrorist attacks on the USA of 11th September 2001. **Patriot Day** is recognized by US law as the official day of remembrance for these tragic events. Each year on this day, American flags are flown at half-staff to honor and commemorate those lives lost. The US President asks fellow Americans to **observe a moment of silence at 8.46am (Eastern Daylight Time)**, the time of the first plane collision into the North Tower of the World Trade Center.

A GREAT SUCCESS!!

On Sunday, April 27th, our Post hosted 125 guests from the West Haven and Newington VA Hospital, and Rocky Hill State Vets Home for an afternoon of dining and entertainment. Everyone had a great time. It was wonderful to see the smiles on the faces of these deserving men and women.

Thank you to our many volunteers and donors, including Schick, Subway, Pop's Family Restaurant, Aldario's, the Bridge House Restaurant, Winkle Bus Company, JMG Music and Entertainment, Comedian Perry Gardener, The Alley Cats, The Girl Scouts, The Milford Rotary, The Fire Dept, Montano, The Milford Volunteers Fife and Drum Corps, The West Haven Juntu 4H Club, Debbie Ruff, Larry Carter, Foxwoods, Saint Agnes Church, the DAV, BJ and her dogs, and others.

Special thanks to our Men's and Ladies Auxiliaries, especially Nancy Paddock, Christine Smith, and Dan Gregory. Post members Joe Razzaia, Don Lareau, and Bob Raynor. And of course, we couldn't have had the success we had without Missy McGeough, who helped in countless ways.

Well done, everyone!

Greg Smith
State Senior Vice Commander
VFW Department of Connecticut

MOTORCYCLE POKER RUN



Our 9th annual Poker Run, sponsored by our Men's Auxiliary unit, will take place on Sunday July 13, 2014.

\$25.00 per bike (Pre-register \$20.00), \$10.00 additional rider, \$5.00 extra poker hand.
 Register at the post starting at 9:00am, first bike out at 9:00am, last bike by 10:00am.
 Coffee/donuts before, roast beef dinner after. Door prizes and raffle. Best poker hand 100 Points, Second 75 Points and Third 50 Points.
 All bikes back by 1:30pm sharp, best poker hands determined at 2:00pm sharp.
Support VFW Military Assistance Program. For additional information or to pre-register contact Kenny Ruff at 203-395-9435, (druff1961@aol.com), or VFW Post 7788 at 203-874-9982 after 2:00 pm.

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course,
 2390 Easton Tnpk, Fairfield, CT.
Fundraiser for VFW Building Fund

Monday Sept. 15, 2014, 8:00 am Sign-In 9:00 am Prompt - Shotgun Start - Scramble Format
 \$100.00 per person / \$400 per foursomes
 Prizes for Hole in One, Closest to the Hole, raffles for golf equipment and supplies, plus other items.
 Includes Breakfast at Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course, Lunch at the Post after the game, cash bar will be available



Additional information; contact **Missy McGeough** Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday evening at the VFW (203-874-9982) after 6:00 pm. Open to all VFW members, auxiliary members, friends and family. Sign up NOW!

MEMORIAL DAY



Commander Jay Murray, of VFW 7788, and Nancy Paddock, president of the ladies auxiliary VFW 7788, present a wreath during the City of Milford's annual Memorial Day Wreath Laying Ceremony on Sunday, May 25th, 2014.



Greg Smith at Veterans of Foreign Wars

Last night I was with the New London VFW veterans outreach team. Today I'm at the Devon Post giving some well deserved recognition to one of the finest Men's Auxiliaries in the VFW. Thank you all for everything you do for veterans and their families.

5/20/2014

A Prayer for Grandpa:

Dear God,
 Please send clothes for all those poor ladies on Grandpa's computer.

Amen

State Convention Report

We had a very successful convention! We saw our Past Post Commander Greg Smith elected and installed at Department Commander for 2014-15. What an honor for Greg and our Post! Congratulations, Commander! We know you will have a fabulous year!

Your Ladies Auxiliary was rewarded for all the work they did this year. We took home six First Place Medallions in our Division: Veterans & Family Support; Cancer Aid & Research; Youth Activities; Scholarship; Legislation; and Membership. We also received three Certificates of Merit: Outstanding Participation in Veterans and Family Support Program; Hospital Program; and Veterans Administration Volunteer Services. And finally, we received the Platinum Award recognizing our monetary contributions to Cancer Aid and Research.

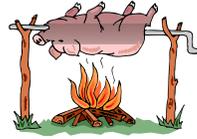
Christine Smith received a special award from National for her work as Chair of the Department of Connecticut's Veterans & Family Support Program. And your Auxiliary President took home the VIP Award for Outstanding Auxiliary President in our Division and the VIP Award for Outstanding District President.

Our Hospitality Room was, once again, the place to be on Friday night. Good food, good music, good friends. The L'il Abner/Dogpatch theme was front and center with Commander Razzaia whipping up batches of kickapoo joy juice and Missy doing her best impression of Daisy Mae! Bales of hay and "Salamy" the pig added to the atmosphere. Kudos to Tony & Chris Papcun who kept the Hospitality Room running and Dan Gregory and his crew from the Men's Auxiliary who set everything up and took it all down when the party was over.

And I would be remiss if I didn't close with acknowledging the 2nd Place Award the Post received for its Newsletter and the award the Post received for membership. Our Men's Auxiliary also received an award for membership. You all should be very proud of your Post and its Auxiliaries.

FAMILY OUTING In honor of Paul Liscinsky

Saturday October 4, 2014 11:00 am to 6:00 pm
Liver Bacon & Onions,
Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Texas Chili, Fresh
Roasted Pig (served at 3 pm)



Corn on the Cob, Potato
Salads, Music & Dancing,
Horseshoes, Volleyball,

Water balloon Toss. Tickets are on sale NOW at the Canteen \$20.00 per person, (children 12 and under are FREE). Cash Bar available. Bring your Friends, and Family and enjoy the day at our VFW Pavilion and Picnic Grounds. Come hungry we will have plenty of good food. For additional information contact Missy McGeough on Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday evening at the VFW (203-874-9982) after 6:00 pm. Open to all VFW members, auxiliary members, friends and family.



TAPS



None reported

A veteran is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to 'The United States of America' for an amount "up to and including my life."

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



Greetings my fellow comrades,

My message today is one of introduction and my goals for the coming year. I have been a member of the post for over three years. I've served in Vietnam with 101st Airborne Division and was a member of the 192nd Field Artillery in the CT National Guard based in New Canaan and Hartford.

Before continuing, a congratulation goes out to Greg Smith for being elected our new State Commander. Greg is only the second member of our post to be elected to this position. I wish him well and pledge my support in all of his endeavors.

My first goal as commander is to reach the 100% mark in membership. Presently, we have 307 members on our rolls, however there are over 100 unpaid members. Dues are \$30 per year. If you haven't paid your dues please do so ASAP. I am also concentrating on getting more new members. There are many eligible veterans in Milford and surrounding cities that could become members of our post.

Another goal that I have set is to get more members to attend the monthly meetings. When I go to the meeting the same 12-14 members are in attendance. It would be nice to see and meet more of you. I realize that for some this may be difficult but for most a couple of hours on a Monday evening is certainly possible. We meet the 3rd Monday of the month except in August this year. The next meeting is July 21st at 7:00pm. Please make every effort to attend; dues must be paid and can be paid prior to the meeting. I look forward to meeting you there.

The last goal I'd like to mention is post communication. I am working on a data base of members' email addresses so in addition to the newsletter I can send out periodic notices of events, meetings and news pertaining to veterans. If possible, please send me your current email address as many have changed. I can be reached at: irazzjr@yahoo.com. Please put VFW in the subject line. In addition, the post is in the process of updating our website: www.vfw7788.org. Please

visit it and keep up with the latest information from our post.

I will be open to all comments from the membership that will make our post the best it can be. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours in comradeship,
Joe Razzaia, Commander



LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS

Greetings! It is an honor to have been elected President, and I have some very large shoes to fill!

I'd like to welcome two new members, Judge Beverly Strait-Keflas who is now a life member and Corey Bromley, Welcome ladies! This year is going to be very busy and exciting. In addition to the many ways we support the post and our veterans we have a new program to announce, "Welcome Veterans". We will be reaching out to area businesses and professionals requesting that they offer a Veterans discount to you. We look forward to many businesses participating. We will compile a list of those businesses that will be available at the post. With proper ID you will receive a discount when purchasing goods and or services. I look forward to working with our post, men's auxiliary and canteen to make this a great year!

Respectfully,
Kim Rose, President.

Welcome new Ladies Auxiliary officers

President	Kim Rose
Sr Vice President	Joan Rousseau
Jr Vice President	Judy Hessberger
Treasurer	Nancy Paddock
Secretary	Alcyne Welton
Chaplain	Pam Holden
Conductress	Barbara Macisco
Patriotic Instructor	Nancy Thomsen
Guard	Grace Pastor
Trustee 3 year	Judy Hessberger
Trustee 2 year	Christine Smith
Trustee 1 year	Arleen Jones



MEN'S AUXILIARY NEWS

First of all, I would like to thank all of you for voting me in as your new president, and voting in my fellow officers:

Garry Saxton Sr., Vice
Matt Gregory Jr., Vice
Mike Nunno, Treasurer
Brian Criscione, Chaplain
Billy Travis, Guard
Jim Shea, Secretary
Trustees; Tony Papsun, Troy Ruff, and Ken Ruff.

If at Any time you feel you have any problems or concerns that maybe I, we, or somebody in our Organization can help you with, please feel free to speak up, and we'll work to get what answers we can, or refer you to somebody that has that status.

In this post we want to work as a team, not as individuals so we can succeed and stay successful as the Men's Aux.7788

Remember this is YOUR post; you only get out of it what you put in.

Also special thanks To Tony papsun for all your hard work that made your two terms as President a success!!!

Men's Aux Members I will do my BEST to carry on the Service

To you, the Post and its members.

Thomas Paine said it best, Lead, Follow or Get out of the way!

Thank you
Men's Auxiliary President
Dan Gregory

EDITOR'S NOTES

This is my first issue as editor of your Newsletter and my intention is to keep it interesting and informative. I have updated the mailing list for the Men's and Ladies Auxiliaries and the Veteran's as well, so some of you might be receiving a newsletter for the first time. Where there were duplications, they were consolidated, so there should be only one newsletter per household. I will ask each group to update me on new members, changes and obituaries. With that said, I hope you enjoy this issue. Next issue will be October, November. Your comments are welcome.

Ed Doran, Jr
e-mail doranjr@optonline.net

VA FACILITIES

We need to hear veterans' real-life stories, not hearsay, about the problems they are experiencing at VA facilities. Only then can we hold VA officials properly accountable for their actions. That's why **we've reintroduced a VFW toll-free number for VA-enrolled veterans to call to share their personal accounts of the care they are receiving.**

The number is 1-800-VFW-1899 (1-800-839-1899). Share it with your friends and family and encourage them to call as well.



Chaplain's Message

God bless our nation's emblem. May it ever symbolize freedom and justice for all men and woman. God bless our troops who are serving in hostile areas around the globe. And we must never forget the hospitalized veterans and those that made the ultimate sacrifice.

Enjoy your summer.
Al Carlson
Post Chaplain