

# HOME FOR THE HEROES

**Main Office:**

287 West Street  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

**Telephone:**

(860) 529-2571

**Toll Free Number (CT only)**

(800) 447-0961

**Fax:** (860) 721-5904

Commissioner

**Dr. Linda S. Schwartz,**  
RN, FAAN

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[www.state.ct.us/ctva](http://www.state.ct.us/ctva)



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
**CONNECTICUT VETERANS' HOME**  
ROCKY HILL, CONNECTICUT

From the desk of

**Commissioner Linda Schwartz**

I sincerely appreciate the very positive comments we received after distributing the first issue of our newsletter. "Home for the Heroes" was praised in letters, phone calls and personal comments that came into our agency.

Mayor Daniel Rovero of Putnam wrote that he "was very impressed with the wealth of information regarding what is offered for our veterans." A state senator asked us to mail copies of the newsletter to the American Legion and VFW posts in his district.

I think you will continue to be informed in this, our second issue. An article on page 2 will give you the process and the places where you can find out about the benefits to which you are entitled. If you have questions about becoming a resident of our Veterans' Home in Rocky Hill, the story on page 4 will give you the answers. Finally, you will learn about our new Veterans Hall of Fame on page 6. If you have any questions or comments, call, write or e-mail the addresses on this page.

**Serving  
Those  
Who Served**



## Having trouble getting your benefits? TURN TO US!

The Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs does not provide services and assistance just to the residents of our Veterans' Home in Rocky Hill. Our Office of Advocacy and Assistance is responsible for serving every veteran in Connecticut as well as their eligible spouses and dependents.

We currently have nine certified Veterans' Service Officers who are ready, willing and able to assist veterans in the following areas:

Obtaining veterans' benefits available under federal state and local laws.

Assisting veterans with any benefit claims against the federal VA. We will represent you at any hearings you may have to attend in Connecticut.

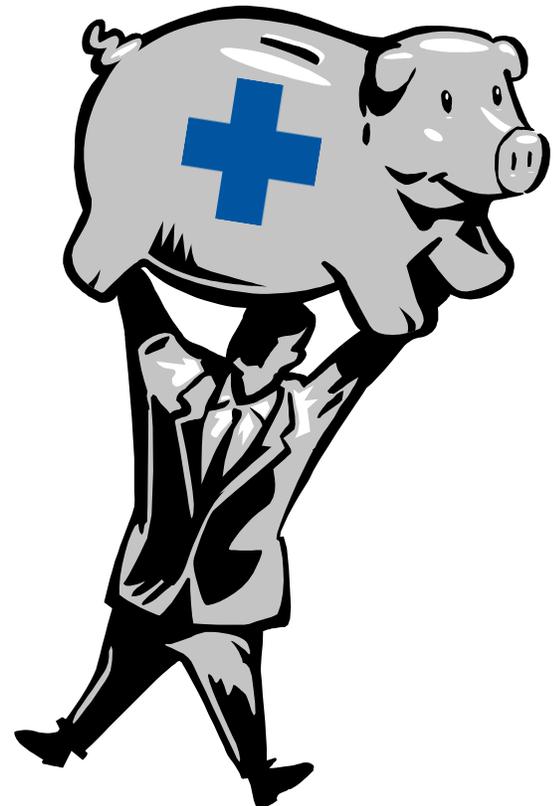
Visiting nursing homes to find if veterans and or their spouses living there are eligible for benefits they are currently not receiving.

Speaking at senior citizen centers, veteran and service organizations to explain what benefits are available and how to obtain them.

Counseling veterans about education training, health and medical issues and rehabilitation programs.

DURING THE LAST FISCAL YEAR, ENDING JUNE 30, 2004, WE OBTAINED \$36 MILLION IN BENEFIT PAYMENTS TO CONNECTICUT VETERANS OR THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS.

In the last two years, more than 5, 200 veterans came to us for help and received the assistance they were looking for and needed. See the next page for the location, hours and schedule of our District and Satellite Offices. If you need help, you will find it at the office nearest your home.



**DISTRICT OFFICES. OPEN MON.-FRI. 8am-4:30pm**

BRIDGEPORT	75 Middle Street	(203) 336-2570
NORWICH	102 Main Street	(860) 887-9162
ROCKY HILL	287 West Street	(860) 721-5893
WATERBURY	55 West Main Street	(203) 805-6340
WEST HAVEN	487B Campbell Avenue	(203) 931-0460

**SATELLITE OFFICES OPEN ON A MONTHLY BASIS**

BRISTOL	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday 1pm-4:30pm	American Legion Post 22 Hooker Court
ENFIELD	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday 11am-3:30pm	Labor Department Route 5
GROTON	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday 11am-3:45pm	Electric Boat ( <i>Employees only</i> )
MANCHESTER	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 1pm-3pm ( <i>Odd months only</i> )	Town Hall Center Street
NAUGATUCK	2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday 9am-noon ( <i>Every other month; (April, June)</i> )	Town Hall Church Street
NORWALK	4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday 10am-2pm	City Hall East Avenue
OLD LYME	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday 11am-2pm	Lyme Senior Center Town Woods Road
SHELTON	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday 2pm-4pm	Senior Center Wheeler Street
STAMFORD	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday 10am-noon	Labor Department Washington Blvd.
TORRINGTON	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 1pm-4pm	Labor Department Winsted Road
WEST HARTFORD	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday 12:30pm-4pm	Town Hall South Main Street

## Want to know how you can be a resident at **HOME FOR THE HEROES?**

Currently, there are approximately 525 residents of the Veterans' Home in Rocky Hill. 375 reside in our domiciles and the remaining 150 live in our healthcare facility. Those living in our "doms" must be ambulatory, require no special care, be able to feed and dress themselves, make their own bed and walk some distance to the dining room. Those in the healthcare facility require some form of healthcare assistance. To be eligible for admittance, you must have served at least 90 days on active duty.

Meals, clothing, medical care and other services are provided for all of our residents. Field trips, entertainment and other special events are also available. Veterans are billed for the services they receive as residents.



As part of the Veterans' Improvement Program, domicile residents receive substance abuse counseling, if appropriate, temporary employment, training and job placement. They may attend a community college to continue their education.

Those in the healthcare facility receive support services, such as:

Alzheimer's Unit, Hospice Program, Life Enrichment Programs, Occupational, Physical, Recreational and Speech Therapy, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Services and a Substance Abuse Recovery Program.

Every resident has a social worker assigned to them. They provide information, assistance with job training and education and are available to work with the veteran through difficult times.

If you would like more information and/or an admissions application form, call, toll free, 1-800-447-0961. For domicile residency, ask for extension 5817. For the healthcare facility, ask for extension 2359.

**OUR VETERANS' HOME IS HERE TO COMFORT AND HEAL YOUR BODY,  
YOUR HEART AND YOUR SOUL!**

One of our veterans favorite tunes is  
**“WITH A SONG IN MY HEART!”**



Entertaining the residents of our healthcare facility is an important job for our staff. Musicians, singers and other performers are frequent visitors to our Veterans’ Home. Whether it’s to celebrate a holiday or a personal, special event, music, singing and dancing are all part of

the celebration. Many of the performers donate their time and talents to entertain and cheer up our veterans.



## Honoring those who served their country and community in **THE CONNECTICUT VETERANS HALL OF FAME**

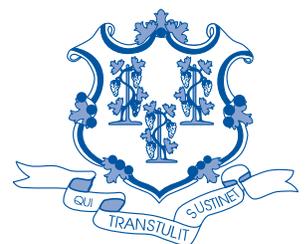
Governor M. Jodi Rell has announced the creation of the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame to honor the post-military achievements of generations of outstanding veterans from the state by recognizing their contributions to their communities after they left military service. Ten veterans will be inducted into the Hall every year. The first induction ceremony will take place at the State Capitol around Veterans Day 2005.

To be eligible for induction, the veteran must have been born in Connecticut or lived here for at least five years. He or she must meet the definition of the term “veteran” under the Connecticut General Statutes 27-103 and must have received an honorable discharge from the U.S. Armed Forces and/or the Connecticut National Guard. Any veteran may be nominated posthumously. A seven-member Executive Committee will review all nominations and select the ten inductees.

Each veteran inducted will be presented with a commemorative medallion and a handsomely framed certificate confirming the induction. In addition, a bronze plaque will be dedicated to every class memorializing those individuals inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame and will be on display at the State Capitol.

Individuals or organizations wishing to nominate a veteran, must request a nomination packet and must return the information requested no later than June 30, 2005. Any nominations received after June 30<sup>th</sup> will be automatically considered for next year’s inductee class.

For more information, visit Governor Rell’s webpage-[www.ct.gov/governorrell](http://www.ct.gov/governorrell)- to link to the nomination packet. You may also request a packet by calling Adam Jeamel, Director of Public Affairs for Governor Rell at (860) 524-7351 or Bob Norman, Director of Public Affairs for the Department of Veterans’ Affairs at (860) 721-5939.





## Veterans' Home residents and staff celebrate...

# St. Patrick's Day!

It was time for the "Wearin' of the Green" when our veterans and staff celebrated St. Patrick's Day. The highlight of the occasion was a performance by Irish entertainer Tom Callinnan. Besides Irish favorites like "Danny Boy", "Who Put the Overalls in Mrs. Murphy's Chowder" and "If You're Irish, Come into the Parlor", Tom sang a special song. Titled "Thank a Vet", it was a song about our Veterans' Home, which Tom wrote after his first visit to our facility two years ago. He was moved by the experience and that feeling was expressed in the song and its performance.



**Directions:**

**From 91N:**

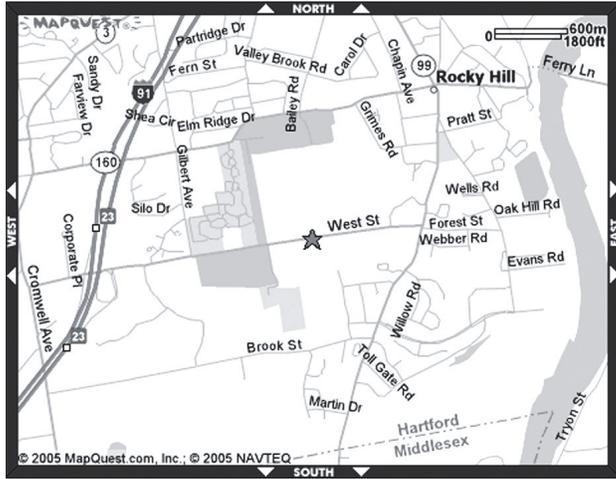
Exit 23, right at end of ramp, take left at 3rd traffic light to enter our facility.

**From 91S:**

Exit 23, left at end of ramp, take left at 4th traffic light to enter our facility.

**From 84:**

Take 91 South and follow above directions.



**VETERANS' TELEPHONE DIRECTORY**

State of Connecticut

Department of Veterans' Affairs ..... 1-800-447-0961

Admitting Department ..... (860) 529-2571

Billing Department ..... (860) 721-5839

Residential & Rehabilitative Services..... (860) 721-5833

Hospice Program/Respite Care ..... (860) 721-5955

Office of Advocacy and Assistance ..... (860) 721-5893

Public Affairs..... (860) 721-5939

Connecticut Veterans' Cemetery ..... (860) 721-5838

Soldiers', Sailors' and Marines' Fund  
(For temporary, emergency assistance) ..... (860) 953-4345

**FEDERAL VA MEDICAL CENTERS**

West Haven..... (203) 932-5711

Newington ..... (860) 666-6951

**FEDERAL VA INFO LINE ..... 1-800-827-1000**

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**Connecticut Veterans' Home**  
287 West Street  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

