CONNECTICUT VETERANS HALL OF FAME

Nomination Packet

History

The Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame was created by Governor M. Jodi Rell in 2005 to demonstrate her concern for Connecticut veterans returning home from military duty during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Governor Rell proposed the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame to recognize the post-military achievements of outstanding veterans and emphasized how such a program would spotlight all veterans' contributions to the civilian workplace. In 2005, the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame was established to increase the awareness of the lifetime contributions of veterans after completion of honorable military service. The Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame is not a military hall of fame. Those selected for the honor of induction are veterans who honorably served their country through military service and who continue to serve and inspire their fellow man with their deeds and accomplishments throughout their lifetime. Each year the committee will select 10 inductees from applications received from across the state and nation. These veterans will be leaders in a variety of areas, such as arts, education, public service, volunteer activities, and community and business leadership to name a few. Most importantly, they all will have made significant impacts on the lives of others and their communities. To be eligible for the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame the nominee must have served their country honorably in a branch of military service and continued to serve their communities, state and nation after discharge. Because so many of America's veterans continue to give to their communities, state and nation after honorable military service, the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame seeks to recognize them for their countless contributions to society.

Ceremony

The induction Ceremony will honor each new class of inductees to the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame. The Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will take place at the State Capitol around Veterans Day each year. The Governor, assisted by the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Adjutant General of the Connecticut National Guard will preside at the induction of 10 veterans into the Hall of Fame. Each inductee will be presented with a commemorative medallion and a handsomely framed certificate confirming the induction. Plans for a permanent display memorializing those veterans inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame are under development.

The Selection Process

The Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame will induct 10 Connecticut veterans each year who have honorably served their country through military service and continue to serve and inspire with their accomplishments throughout their lifetime. An Executive Committee was created to select eligible

veterans who have ties to Connecticut. The Executive Committee will be comprised of and chaired by the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans' Affairs; Adjutant General of the Connecticut National Guard; three appointees selected by the Governor; and two appointments from the legislative branch – one from a Senate leader and one from a House leader. Applications for induction are solicited from all Connecticut citizens and according to the Nomination Guidelines. The application guidelines include, but are not limited to:

The nominee must have been born in Connecticut or have resided in Connecticut for a minimum of five years.

The nominator must provide discharge papers, which will verify the honorable military service of the nominee.

The nomination packet must contain the nomination form, the discharge papers, and written documentation citing the nominee's service to the community, state, and/or nation. The written documentation should not exceed 5 pages in length, not including the required documents.

All nomination packets must be received by June 30 to be considered for that year's class. Nominations received after June 30 will be automatically considered the next year.

Nomination Guidelines

NOMINATION PACKET DEADLINE - JUNE 30

1. The Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame seeks to recognize those Connecticut residents, or former state residents, who have worn the uniform of this Nation's Armed Forces, performed their military duties, and then continued to contribute to community, state and nation in an exemplary manner. These outstanding contributions may, for example, be in the areas of professional, civic, veteran's advocacy, political or contributions over the life of the nominee.

2. Please note: the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame is not intended to be a military hall of fame.

3. The nominee must meet the following rules:

a. Must have been born in Connecticut or lived in Connecticut for a minimum of five years.

b. Must meet the definition of a "veteran" as defined under Connecticut General Statutes 27-103.

c. Must have received an honorable discharge from the U.S. Armed Forces and provide a copy verifying honorable discharge from the U.S. Armed Forces and/or provide a copy verifying honorable veteran's service discharge papers (e.g. DD 214) with the nomination packet. If unable to retrieve discharge papers for historical figures, proof of service as evidenced by historical accounts or military history may be submitted.

d. Be of good moral character and have no felony convictions.

4. In order for the submission process to uniformly portray the efforts and contributions of these great Connecticut veterans, it is recommended that the nomination packet be completed in accordance with the following suggested format.

Section – 1 Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame Nomination Form:

Please insure the accuracy of the information on the nominee: including phone numbers and address. This form also requires the signature of the nominator to validate that the information is accurate and follows the nomination guidelines.

Section – 2 Verification of Veteran's Status:

Please attach all copies of official documents verifying veteran's service (e.g. DD 214).

Section – 3 Summary of Education and Training Accomplishments:

A simple chronology of education and training accomplishments (List or attach any significant achievements, recognitions, etc.)

Section – 4 Summary of the Veteran's Professional or Employment History:

Please provide a simple chronology of professional and employment history. (You may attach any significant awards, recognition, etc. that may be pertinent to this item.)

Section – 5 Summary of Veteran's Advocacy Contributions:

Summarize the contributions and recognition of the nominee in relation to veterans' advocacy or veterans' support programs or initiatives. (Examples may include the nominee's active involvement with veterans' organizations.)

Section – 6 Summary of Civic Activities, and Contributions:

Summarize the nominee's civic affiliations and contributions (e.g. Rotary, Kiwanis, schools, political, fraternal, etc.)

Section – 7 List any awards or honors:

(e.g. Presidential awards, Who's Who, Citizen of the Year, etc.)

Section – 8 Give a simple narrative as to why you feel this individual should be considered for the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame:

In this last section you tell the Selection Committee why your nominee should be recognized (e.g., civic contributions, veteran's advocacy, exemplary professional contributions, etc.)

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5. The nomination packet is not to exceed five (5) 8½" x 11" pages excluding the nomination form and proof of service. Multiple nominations of the same individual are discouraged.

6. Posthumous nominations are accepted

7. Nomination packets and attachments become the property of the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame and will not be returned.

8. Nominations will be reviewed by the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame Executive Committee. Recommendations for induction are submitted for approval to the Governor of the State of Connecticut.

9. Employees of the Governor's staff, all state elected officials and members of the General Assembly, and the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame Executive Committee, are ineligible for induction into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame until two years after they have left their position. The Executive Committee may waive the two-year requirement for nominees over the age of seventy.

Nomination packets must be received no later than June 30

Mail Nomination packet to:

Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame
Attn: Commissioner
287 West Street
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Any questions or concerns please call (860) 721-5939.

Please view the following websites at:

www.ct.gov/GovernorRell
www.ct.gov/ctva

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2005 Nathan George Agostinelli (Manchester)

His military service includes two years as a First Lieutenant in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict. He served six years in the U.S. Army Reserve and 23-years in the Connecticut National Guard advancing through the ranks from First Lieutenant to Brigadier General. He was elected Mayor of the Town of Manchester and then State Comptroller, becoming the first Manchester resident elected to statewide office. He has been an Executive Vice President of New England Bank, Trustee of Eastern Connecticut Health Network, Member of the State Banking Commission, and Member of the Connecticut Commission on Hospitals and Health Care; He was very instrumental in establishing the WWII Museum during the 50th Anniversary Celebration and Co-Chaired Manchester's Town Commemoration Committee. Currently, Mr. Agostinelli is a director of the Selective Service System for the State of Connecticut, appointed to that position by President Clinton.

2006 Douglas A. Bora (Norwalk)

Mr. Bora is a U.S. Army veteran of World War II and recipient of the Silver Star who continued his service with the Connecticut National Guard after the War. For many decades, he has been a tireless civic volunteer and leader through service as president of the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the Norwalk Bicentennial Commission responsible for coordinating 52 events, a Little League volunteer for 25 years and co-founder of the Norwalk Community Theater.

2005 President George Herbert Walker Bush (Greenwich)

He served as a Naval Aviator during World War II and flew 58 combat missions. He was the youngest pilot in the Navy when he received his wings. He was elected to Congress in 1967 from the State of Texas and continued to serve his country as Ambassador to the United Nations and Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. In 1980, he was elected Vice-President under Ronald Reagan and was elected the 41st President of the United States in 1988.

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2005 William Thomas Coffey, Sr. (Plainville)

Colonel Coffey has an outstanding 43-year military career in the Connecticut National Guard. His unit was mobilized for the Korean Conflict and he volunteered for duty in Vietnam. After his military service, he continued serving his comrades and fellow veterans. For the past 8 years, he has been active with the Connecticut Committee for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves and currently serves as Vice-Chairman of that group. He is active in the important Pre and Post Mobilization Process for members of the Connecticut National Guard and Reserve units being mobilized for duty in Southwest Asia. In collaboration with this son, Major William Coffey Jr. has published two anthologies of American Patriotism. He has been an avid collector of the stories and "uncommon words from common patriots" that comprise the volumes of "Patriots Heart" and "More Patriots Heart" which are rich with text that reflect and celebrate the American spirit, honor, integrity and wisdom.

2005 Dr. Randall Howard Collins (Waterford)

Dr. Collins served in the United States Army Military Intelligence Division during the Vietnam War. He received several medals and commendations during his tour of duty in that conflict. Returning to civilian life, he sought a career in education and in 1987 received his doctorate from Boston University. He has served as Superintendent of Schools in three different communities over the past 18 years, the last 14 of which have been in Waterford. He pioneered the development of the "Learning Through Service Program," which made Waterford the first public school in America to require a designated number of community service hours as a requirement for graduation, promoting good citizenship through community service. He has received the Connecticut Superintendent of the Year Award. One of his most important contributions to the veteran community was his leadership in urging the Board of Education to award high school diplomas to WWII veterans whose education was interrupted because of the war. This was adopted throughout Connecticut and became a tradition and custom, which eventually was embraced by the Lt. Governor and the entire state. He also was effective in persuading the Board to adopt a policy of offering maximum financial support to all employees in the Reserves that are called to Active Duty and encouraged other school districts to do the same. As a member of the Military/Superintendents Liaison Commission, he examines various needs of the military community living in Southeast Connecticut. He continues to be a strong advocate for veterans and military personnel.

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2007 Michael J. Daly (Fairfield)

United States Army WORLD WAR II SERVICE ***Congressional Medal of Honor*** for heroism on April 18, 1945, Nuremberg, Germany. • Three Silver Stars for Gallantry in Action • Bronze Star and two awards of the Purple Heart Medal for wounds received in action • Battlefield Commission in France, from Private First Class to Second Lieutenant, December 1944 •Legion of Valor Life Member • Man of the Year, Town of Fairfield, 1946 • U.S. Military Academy at West Point lecturer, whose military record is used as an outstanding example of the duties of an Army Infantry Officer in time of war • Life Member Kiwanis Club • Board of Directors, St. Vincent's Hospital 1980– 2000 • Member of Connecticut Judicial Review Council, ten years service • Founder and CEO of the Daly Foundation • Over 30 years service to children with handicaps and their hospitals • Over 50 years of service to the Town of Fairfield.

2005 Bruce Hults Ey (Wethersfield) (Posthumously)

Mr. Ey attained the rank of Technical Sergeant in the United States Army Air Force during World War II. Although stricken with polio as a young man he enthusiastically sought to serve in the military. During his time in service he was a Radio Gunner on a B-17, did combat tours in Korea and Vietnam, was a Prisoner of War and received numerous medals and commendations including the Purple Heart. He served as the Commanding Officer for the Military Intelligence and Security Unit FRF Germany. He retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He continued to serve his former comrades after being appointed Director of Veteran's Home Life at the State Veterans Home and Hospital in 1973. In his desire to help his fellow veterans he spearheaded efforts to engage community support to improve the quality of life for the veterans at Rocky Hill. He was responsible for establishing the Home's Outreach Program and instituting many recreational activities that enriched the lives of the veterans at the Home then and for years to come. He shared his love of sports by coaching Little League in Wethersfield. He also ensured that veterans were honored twice a year by Major League Baseball at Shea Stadium, Yankee Stadium or Fenway Park. **[Accepting was Ms. Ey, Wife]**

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2007 Alfred J. Faticoni (Newington) (Posthumously)
United States Navy and United States Army 1947—1950 Enlisted one year in US Navy and then enlisted in the US Army for two years • 2006 George H. Seal Award: National DAV (Disabled American Veterans) Volunteer of the Year • Cofounder of DAV hospital transportation program for Newington VA Hospital •2002 Connecticut Federal Executive Association Award for Outstanding Federal Volunteer •Disabled American Veterans Department of Connecticut Volunteer of the Year Award 1993 • Recognized for Outstanding Support of the VA CT Healthcare System 1994-95 and Recipient of the VA Center Directors' "Badge of Pride" Award • City of New Britain Distinguished Service Award 1977 • Chairman and Fund raiser for Commemorative Wall Project, Newington VA Campus • Department of Connecticut Italian American War Veteran Man of the Year 1973 • Over 60,500 hours and over 45 years of volunteer service to veterans. **[Accepting was Barry Faticoni, Nephew]**

***2007 Dr. George G. Gentile* (Newington) (Posthumously)**
WORLD WAR II SERVICE 2nd Lieutenant, US Marine Corps, Battle for Iwo Jima Founder and President of The Iwo Jima Survivors Association. Formed Iwo Jima Memorial Survivor's Association, Inc. • Author of book *History of the Iwo Jima Survivors Association, Inc. and the National Iwo Jima Monument* •Doctor of Dental Surgery, Treasurer CT State Dental Society. Member of Fellow-Pierre Fauchard Academy of Dentistry. NE Regional Board of Examiners. Fones Humanitarian Award, CT State Dental Association. • President and Charter Member of New Britain Civitan Club •CT General Assembly Citation for establishing National Iwo Jima Monument in New Britain, CT • State of Hawaii House of Representatives recognition for assistance with the Pacific War Memorial • Letter of Commendation from General M. W. Hagee, Commandant of the US Marine Corps **[Accepting was Mrs. Winn Gentile, Wife]**

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2006 Robert A. Janicki (Guilford)

Mr. Janicki is a U.S. Marine veteran of the Vietnam War and has been an active advocate for veterans for over 25 years, serving as the founder/chairperson of the SNET/AT&T Veterans, a veterans support group that has raised funding and awareness for veterans needs across the state and nation. He is an active member of several veterans' advisory boards and service organizations.

2006 Franklin E. Johnson, Sr., (Naugatuck)

Mr. Johnson is a U.S. Army veteran of World War II who served a 38-year career as an educator, counselor and coach at Naugatuck High School and has led the Naugatuck Veterans Council as chairman for two decades, developing Naugatuck's extensive Memorial Day parade into one of the largest patriotic parades in New England.

2006 William J. Johnston (Colchester) (Posthumously)

Mr. Johnston, of Colchester, served with the U.S. Army in World War II and was awarded the Medal of Honor in February 1944 while serving with the 45th Infantry Division in Italy. He continued his service to fellow veterans through a long career with the U.S. Veterans Administration and through service on the Colchester Board of Selectmen, the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs Board of Commissioners and as state commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. **[Accepting is his daughter Mrs. Dorothy O'Meara]**

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2006 Evans Edward Kerrigan (Rocky Hill)

Mr. Kerrigan is a U.S. Marine veteran of the Korean War and was awarded three Purple Hearts for wounds received during enemy action. He has been extensively involved in veterans' advocacy at the state and national levels including leadership positions with the Military Order of the Purple Heart and the E-2-5 Korea Association and is a published author of several books on military history and medals.

2007 Elwood A.D. *"Woody"* Lechausse (Enfield*)*

VIETNAM WAR, Sergeant, US Army, Airborne • Life Member of eight veterans organizations, 35 years of veterans advocacy • Travelers Life Insurance Co. (retired) • CT Department of Veterans' Affairs Board of Trustees • Charter member, CT War Veterans Memorial Register of Remembrance Commission • Member, Nomination Review Board for Military Academies for US Senate and US House of Representatives • Secretary and Treasurer of Connecticut Veterans' Coalition Forum • Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 120 • Charter Member, Community Advisory Committee for VA CT • Co-Chair Mental Health Community Advisory Board for VA CT • Chairman, Manchester, CT Veterans Council on Homeless Veterans • 82nd Airborne Division Association, Inc, Veterans' Service Officer • CT Yankee All-Airborne Chapter (CYAAC) Board of Directors • National Executive Committee, Disabled American Veterans • Department of Connecticut Commander, Adjutant and Legislative Chair, DAV • Frequent testifier on veterans' issues before US Senate, US Department of Veterans' Administration, CT State Legislature • Author of many publications on veterans and disabled veterans issues.

2005 Joseph G. Lombardo (Middlefield)

Mr. Lombardo served in the United States Army during World War II and held the rank of Second Lieutenant as a Navigator in the Army Air Force. He was elected to the Connecticut General Assembly in 1956 and served on the House Veterans and Military Affairs Committee. He strongly advocated for veterans and organized the Middlefield American Legion Post #92 and served as its first Commander. He is a life member of

both the American Legion and VFW. He has lived a life of philanthropy and community leadership, which has touched countless individuals. He is a member of the Connecticut Board of Football Officials having had the distinction of serving for 15 years as a Head Linesman. He has been cited by Citizen's Bank and Farmer's Mechanics Bank for 20 years of outstanding contributions to the banking community; He served on the Board of Trustees of Middlesex Community College for 10 years. He established an endowment fund to finance the tuition program for needy students. Included among his many philanthropic activities is his work with the Middlesex County Foundation, assistance to troubled children at the Cromwell Children's Home where he organized and secured funds that enabled them to build a new education building and as Treasurer of the Levi Coe Library.

2007 Anthony Mammola (Westbrook)

WORLD WAR II Service US Navy, Chief Naval Aviation Pilot • Purple Heart for wounds received after being shot down over Luzon, Philippines • Lt. Commander, US Naval Reserve • Design Engineer at Electric Boat, Groton • 42 years of local veterans advocacy • Representative of the Soldiers' Sailors' and Marines' Fund of Connecticut • Submarine Group II recognition Award • Special Olympics volunteer and recipient, Special Olympics "Medal of Honor" • Veterans' benefits service officer for local American Legion, VFW, and Elks • "Veteran's Veteran" of Westbrook Elks Club, author of Veterans' column. • Volunteer with West Haven Veterans Hospital, American Legion, VFW and Disabled American Veterans. • Chairman of Old Saybrook Memorial Day Parade since 1969.

2007 Alfred A. Meadows (Huntington)

VIETNAM WAR SERVICE US Army, 1965-1968 Combat Infantryman • Purple Heart, Vietnam • Past State Commander for Disabled American Veterans, State Vice Commander for CT Military Order of the Purple Heart, Post Commander of VFW and American Legion units • VFW State Honor Guard and Drill Team • Founder of "Operation Gift Card" , raising more than $65,000 in gift certificates presented to wounded troops on personal visits to Walter Reed and Bethesda Hospitals. Expanded program to collect items for Family Assistance Program and Fisher House for families of wounded • Chairman

"Operation Dust-Off " providing day trips to hospitalized veterans • Owner of AL Meadows Graphic Design, LLC which provides pro bono design for veterans' organizations • "Volunteer of the Year" CT DAV • Local volunteer Cub Scouts, Special Olympics, YMCA, Fairfield County Firefighters.

2005 Giacomo "Jack" Mordente II (Branford)

Mr. Mordente served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam era and was on active duty for three years. Upon discharge, he joined the Army Reserve to continue serving his country. For the past 30 years, Jack has served the needs of veterans as Director of Veterans Affairs at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven. As an Adjunct Faculty member, he initiated the Vietnam War Era Historical, Cultural, Social and Geopolitical Study Program. He has sponsored PTSD In-Service Training at the Connecticut Department of Corrections. He has energetically encouraged veterans' awareness at SCSU by sponsoring the Smithsonian Vietnam War Photo Exhibit and Connecticut Vietnam Veterans Art Shows. He is a dauntless advocate for veterans and has spoken and lectured about America and the Vietnam Experience, women veterans, minority veterans and Gulf War veterans. He was is a member of the New Haven Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee, Connecticut Board of Higher Education Advisory Committee and Chair of the Connecticut Herbicides Information Commission. He is an active member of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. He has also advocated for veterans on the national level on such issues as healthcare, education and employment.

2007 Robert J. Nearine (Glastonbury)

KOREAN WAR ERA SERVICE Colonel, US Army Reserve, retired • Public schools educator, counselor, administrator, 41 years • Adjunct Faculty, US Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, KS • National Publications Committee, Reserve Officers Association • National Defense Education Forum Chairman. Commended for "exceptional contributions" to program for authoring National Security Seminar planning handbook • CT Medical Reserve Corps Planning Committee • Volunteer with CREPC Medical Reserve Corps. • Captain, First Company, Governor's Foot Guard. Coordinator, *Battalion Review*, quarterly newsletter • National Councilman, Reserve Officers Association. • Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve • President Phi Delta Kappa, UConn Chapter and Area coordinator, New England and Eastern Canada • Masonic 32nd Level, Shrine, Knight

Templar, Royal Order of Jesters, Sphinx Temple, Newington • Life Member, AMVETS • Post Commander, American Legion Post 1771 • Member, American Psychological Association • Member, Pi Lambda Theta (International Honor Society and Professional Association in Education) • Past President, Hartford Civitan Club

2007 Robert B. Nett (New Haven & Columbus, GA)
WORLD WAR II, KOREAN WAR, AND VIETNAM WAR Service ***Congressional Medal of Honor***, for remarkable courage in combat near Cognon, Leyte, Philippine Islands, Dec. 14, 1944. • Commanded Officer Candidate School, Ft. Benning, known as "The Father of the Officer Candidate School." • 33 years military service, retiring as Colonel in 1973 • Honorary "Colonel of the Regiment" 102nd Infantry, CT Army National Guard • Long-time public school educator • "Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award" Columbus, GA Schools system • Featured in Tom Brokaw's book, *The Greatest Generation* • Received "The 2007 Spirit of Hope Award" USO's highest honor. • Advocate for veterans' services and benefit claims through his work with the VA VFW, American Legion and Vietnam Veterans' groups • Developed and provided series of leadership seminars to OCS candidates. **[Accepting was BG Retired Daniel J. McHale, former 102d Infantry Commander]**

2006 Peter Robert Pardo (Madison)
Mr. Pardo served with the U.S. Army during World War II as a noncommissioned officer and then earned an officer commission with the U.S. Air Force where he served on active duty for another 26 years. After completing law school later in life, he has served as an elected official in Madison for over 24 years and volunteered extensively with local civic organizations.

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2005 Lt. James Sedalia Peters II (Storrs)

Dr. Peters served in the United States Navy during World War II. In spite of being in a segregated camp at Great Lakes, his work and research helped to bring about integration in the United States Navy in 1945. The other military services did not integrate until 1948. Dr. Peters, a retired administrator, professor and licensed clinical/counseling psychologist, served as Associate Commissioner for the Connecticut Department of Education. His assistance to veterans includes 10 years working for the U.S Veterans Administration. Throughout his life, he has been a champion for the rights of physically, mentally disadvantaged and handicapped individuals. He has written numerous publications, including 25 books on a range of topics and interest areas. His works include: "Psychological Consequences of Being a Black American": a sourcebook of research by Black Psychologists; "Leadership and Career Development"; "The Saga of Black Navy Veterans of WWII: An American Triumph"; and "Social Justice for the Disabled".

2007 Tony Paul Pia (Stamford) (Posthumously)

WORLD WAR II, KOREAN WAR, AND VIETNAM WAR SERVICE Sergeant First Class, United States Army • Intelligence sergeant, drill instructor, NATO interpreter and recruiting sergeant • Assistant Director of the Human Rights Commission of City of Stamford, CT • Board of Directors, Stamford Municipal Credit Union •Host of "Old Sarge Tony Pia" weekly radio program on WSTC-AM • Veterans Advocate, 40 years • General Chairman of Stamford Veteran's Memorial and Park Committee. Worked tirelessly to reconstruct Veterans Memorial Park in Stamford • Host of "Voice of Democracy" contest for High School students. This work was honored by the establishment of a $5000 annual "The "Old Sarge Tony Pia Scholarship" awarded to a Stamford High School student • Stamford Jaycee's Distinguished Award for Outstanding Community Service • "Man of the Year" by American-Italian Association 1978 • "Citizen of the Year" by Jewish War Veterans of Stamford • Honored by the Marine Corps and Army for work with veterans. **[Accepting was Barbara Pia-Malizia, Daughter]**

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2005 Lt. Ernest Virgil Plantz (Gales Ferry)

Mr. Plantz served with the United States Navy in World War II and attained the rank of Lieutenant. In 1942 he survived the sinking of his submarine, the USS Perch, by Japanese forces and became a prisoner of war. He was liberated more than 3 years later in 1945. He was awarded several medals included the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. He overcame physical and emotional damages he suffered as a Prisoner of War to serve his community and fellow veterans. Although he is a disabled veteran his untiring energy and commitment to others is impressive. He is active in civic affairs in Ledyard, especially the Lions Club where he served as President. His effort to enrich the lives of others was recognized by his honor as the Melvin Jones Fellow, which is the highest award for humanitarian service bestowed by Lions International. He also served as a member of the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Planning Agency, as Deacon in his church and is a member of many patriotic and fraternal organizations. He has also spent many hours teaching school children about the history of World War II and the sacrifices made by our veterans.

2006 Anthony Vito Savino (Bristol)

Mr. Savino served on active duty with the U.S. Army and Connecticut Army National Guard for 40 years, serving as the state command sergeant major of the Connecticut National Guard for his last 16 years. During his military service and since his retirement, he has volunteered tirelessly in his community on numerous boards, commissions, and veterans committees, including service on the Bristol City Council.

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2007 Darrell D. Stark (Stafford)

WORLD WAR II SERVICE, PRISONER OF WAR, JAPAN Corporal, US Army • Taken Prisoner of War Yokkaichi, Japan 1942-1945 • Purple Heart Medal for wounds received in Bataan 1942 • Philippine Liberation Medal, Bronze Star for Meritorious Achievement in ground combat World War II •20-year public service career as corrections officer/warden, Department of Corrections • Certificate of Achievement in Supervisory Training of Jail Officers • Developed Inmate Transportation Program for Connecticut Department of Corrections • Volunteer counselor/mentor to former inmates, assisting with reintegration • "Teacher in Residence" at National Prisoner of War Museum, Americus, GA • Advisor to medical personnel at Veterans' Administration on behalf of veteran and ex-prisoners of war for 20 years. • Stafford area Community volunteer, including as frequent historical lecturer to school children. Service US Navy, Chief Naval Aviation Pilot • Purple Heart for wounds received after being shot down over Luzon, Philippines • Lt. Commander, US Naval Reserve • Design Engineer at Electric Boat, Groton • 42 years of local veterans advocacy • Representative of the Soldiers' Sailors' and Marines' Fund of Connecticut • Submarine Group II recognition Award • Special Olympics volunteer and recipient, Special Olympics "Medal of Honor" • Veterans' benefits service officer for local American Legion, VFW, and Elks • "Veteran's Veteran" of Westbrook Elks Club, author of Veterans' column. • Volunteer with West Haven Veterans Hospital, American Legion, VFW and Disabled American Veterans. • Chairman of Old Saybrook Memorial Day Parade since 1969.

2006 James S. Tierney (West Hartford)

Mr. Tierney is a career U.S. Navy veteran of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, serving as both a sailor and Naval officer. He has advocated for veterans issues before the General Assembly, as a founding member of the Connecticut Veterans Coalition Forum, and has provided significant leadership too many veterans' organizations, including service as chairman of the new West Hartford Veterans Memorial.

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2005 Norman Warren VanCor (Harwinton)

Served in the United States Marines during the Vietnam War where he attained the rank of Sergeant. He was awarded the Navy Cross for his heroic actions in saving the lives of two of his wounded comrades during a firefight in Vietnam in 1969. He has been active in advocating for veterans and has volunteered his time in serving on community and state boards and commissions. He is a master gardener and taught gardening to the inmates at the Cheshire Correctional Institute to help them with transitional employment upon their release. He was an original Corporator of Bradley Memorial Hospital in Southington. Other notable accomplishments include service as President of the Southing Water Commission, Alternate Member of the Connecticut Judicial Review Council and member of the Council on Environmental Quality. He was inducted into the American Diabetes Hall of Merit and selected as one of the 50 most influential people in Connecticut in the fight against diabetes.

2006 Carl Roderick Venditto (Southington)

Mr. Venditto is a U.S. Marine veteran of the Korean War-era who served both on active duty and in the Marine Corps Reserves for 35 years as a commissioned officer. A longtime public school teacher and administrator, he has assisted Reservists for over 20 years with employer and mobilization issues as an ombudsman and advocate, including service as chairman of DoD's Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Committee for Connecticut.

2006 Edward Washburn Whitaker (Killingly) (Posthumously)

Mr. Whitaker, a native of Killingly and graduate of Ashford public schools, fought in 82 engagements during the Civil War as a member of the First Regiment Connecticut Cavalry Volunteers rising to the rank of brevet brigadier general at the age of 23. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his gallant actions at Reams Station, Virginia in June 1864. After the War, he served as superintendent of the U.S. Capitol Building and was appointed postmaster of Hartford by President Grant. During his post-war years in Connecticut, he organized and led several new veterans' organizations. **[Accepting are the**

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nominator: John Regan and Mr. Whitaker's great-great-great grandnephew: Timmy Stearns, In Civil War Uniform]

Class of 2005

Class of 2006

Class of 2007

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