



CONNECTICUT

Department of Veterans' Affairs E-Newsletter

January 19, 2011

Volume 3, Number 1

GOVERNOR MALLOY REAPPOINTS LINDA SPOONSTER SCHWARTZ TO VETERANS AFFAIRS



"I'm looking forward to working with Governor Malloy and his Administration as we ensure that our state's veterans, regardless of when or where they served, receive the programs and services they need and deserve."

**-Commissioner
Schwartz**



(HARTFORD, CT) - Governor Dan Malloy announced that he has chosen to reappoint Linda Spoonster Schwartz as the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs. Commissioner Schwartz has held her position for more than seven years.

"With her experience as a veteran and a nurse, Commissioner Schwartz brings first-hand knowledge to the job that few others have," said Governor Malloy. "Her dedication to improving the lives of Connecticut's veterans is admirable to say the least, and I look forward to working with her."

"My commitment to improving the lives of our state's veterans transcends politics and I'm pleased to say that it has transcended administrations, as well," said Commissioner Schwartz. "Many Connecticut men and women have chosen to serve our nation in Iraq and Afghanistan, and we need to ensure that they return to a state ready to help them transition into civilian life. I'm looking forward to working with Governor Malloy and his Administration as we ensure that our state's veterans, regardless of when or where they served, receive the programs and services they need and deserve."

Commissioner Schwartz, USAF (Ret) received her Masters in Nursing from Yale and holds a Doctorate in Public Health from the Yale School of Medicine. Commissioner Schwartz was a member of the United States Air Force (1967-1986) and served on Active Duty and as a Reservist. She retired in 1986 after sustaining injuries in an aircraft accident while serving as a USAF Flight Nurse and holds the rank of Colonel on the Governor's Military Staff. She served for seven years on the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs Scientific Advisory Committee Vietnam Veterans Longitudinal Study and was the Co-Chair of the Connecticut General Assembly study of the "Effects of Depleted Uranium on Gulf War Veterans." She has served as the President of the Connecticut Nurses Association and Connecticut Nurses Foundation. She has been elected to the National Board of Directors of the American Nurses Association, Vietnam Veterans of America and the Vietnam Women's Memorial. From 1989-1998, Commissioner Schwartz served in several advisory positions to the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs, which included the issues of readjustment of combat veterans, homeless veterans, women veterans and seriously mentally ill veterans. In 2001, Schwartz was elected to the American Academy of Nursing.



WARRIORS REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM-W.R.A.P.

The Warrior Reintegration Assistance Program (WRAP) was established in the Fall of 2010 in response to a growing need to provide transitional housing services to returning service members who served in Iraq and Afghanistan (OEF-OIF-OND). The five houses have now been renovated and updated for occupancy by qualified returning warriors.

Many veterans' service organizations have volunteered their services and some have adopted the houses, outfitting them with the special touches that make a house into a home. Located on West Street in Rocky Hill, CT across from the CT Department of Veterans' Affairs main campus, the houses can accommodate up to fifteen (15) residents, with one house reserved for women veterans. All houses are completely furnished, equipped with kitchen supplies, bedding, furniture, washers & dryers, and full kitchens. The Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs is responsible for all maintenance and repairs.

Combat veterans of OEF/OIF/OND may inquire about WRAP services by calling the Vet INFO Line 1-866-9CT-VETS (866-928-8387). [Click here for info](#)

[MOPH House](#)



NY Giants Super Bowl Champion, Rodney Hampton came to visit with the veterans at Rocky Hill in December.

He signed autographs and predicted another win for the Giants! Thanks, Rodney!

Friday Sept. 17, 2010

What a great success!

Nearly 1400 needy veterans from throughout our state received services!

Thank You! to our Staff, Donors, Vendors, and Volunteers!



www.ct.gov/ctva

Check out our
WEBSITE

Special Tabs for
OEF/OIF/OND
Veterans

Women Veterans
WomenVETNET

Veterans Home Info

State Veterans
Memorial Info

Watch for News from
Veterans Groups
State DVA News
Federal VA Updates



VETERANS TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

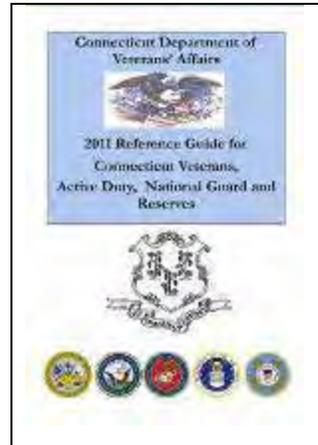
Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs

New phone number 860-616-3600

CT Veterans Benefits Information Toll-Free	1-866-928-8387
Soldiers' Sailors' & Marines Fund (emergency)	1-860-296-0719
Military Support Program (Toll-free, confidential)	1-866-251-2913
CT VETS INFOLINE (toll-free)	1-866-9CT-VETS

Web links

CT Department of Veterans' Affairs: <http://ct.gov/ctva>
US Department of Veterans' Affairs: <http://www.va.gov>
State of Connecticut Official Website: <http://www.ct.gov>



**2011 VETERANS RESOURCE
GUIDE IS NOW AVAILABLE (click
on image to connect to this important
directory of federal & state
information)**

*Need help with your Veteran Benefits?
Connecticut has **CERTIFIED** Veteran Service
Officers to assist with your personal
application and appeals for federal and state
veterans programs. Offices are located in
each Congressional District.
Call 1-866-9CT-VETS to make an appointment.*

To Our Readers:



This will be the last E-Newsletter I will write on behalf of the Department of Veterans' Affairs. As I move to retirement from state service on February 1st, I leave behind many fond memories of my public service career. I was honored to advocate for veterans and our military in my 14 years as State Senator from Groton and 4 years as Governor Rell's appointee to Rocky Hill. I thank you for your work with me on behalf of our veterans, especially at Stand Down, the Holidays, and for our families of the fallen and our returning combat veterans.

*Godspeed to you all,
Cathy Cook*

Be sure to check our
Website:

www.ct.gov/ctva

For important news
And announcements
From the Federal VA

Federal Guide to Veterans Benefits



Click on the photo to
connect to the Federal
Guide to Veterans
Benefits.

Attention Living Veterans of 3 or more wars–

Commissioner Linda
Schwartz would like to
honor your extraordinary
service in the armed forces
at a future event to be
announced. If you are a
Connecticut veteran or
know a living Connecticut
veteran of three wars,
please contact the
Commissioner's office at
860-616-3603.



Department of
Veterans Affairs

News from the US VA

President Signed Improvements to Post-9/11 GI Bill Many Non-College Programs, State Service of Reserves and Guard Covered

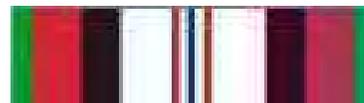
WASHINGTON – To bring the educational benefits of the Post-9/11 GI Bill closer to more Veterans and Service Members, President Obama signed legislation Jan. 4 that streamlines the 18-month-old education program administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Among the provisions of the legislation are:

- Paying for on-the-job training, some flight training; apprenticeship training and correspondence courses;
- Allowing reservists and Guardsmen to have their time supporting emergencies called by their state governors credited to the time needed to qualify for educational benefits;
- Providing one half of the national average for the program's housing allowance to students enrolled in distance learning;
- Pro-rating the housing allowance to exclude payments when students are not in class;
- Allowing students on active duty receive the stipend for books and supplies;
- Allowing people eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, but participating in VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) benefits to choose between the GI Bill's housing allowance or VR&E's subsistence allowance;
- Permitting reimbursement for more than one "license and certification" test;
- Reimbursing fees to take national admission tests, such as SAT, ACT, GMAT and LSAT; and
- Establishing a national cap of \$17,500 annually for tuition and fees in a private or a foreign school, not including contributions by educational institutions under the "Yellow Ribbon" program.

More information is available at www.gibill.va.gov.

***Check out other news and information for
OEF/OIF/OND Combat Veterans on our
website: www.ct.gov/ctva***



CT Veterans Hall of Fame



NOMINATION PACKETS
FOR THE CLASS OF 2011
ARE AVAILABLE NOW

Click here

Go to www.ct.gov/ctva

Or Call 860-616-3603

Nominations MUST be Postmarked
by

4 pm June 30, 2011

CLASS OF 2010

Edmund J. Burke

Thomas J. Burke

John J. Carcioppolo

Robert C. Hunt, Jr.

Doris Troth Lippman

William J. McGurk

Robert C. Moeller

Abner Oakes, III

Edward V. Sabotka

Robert R. Simmons

Stanley F. Zebzda
(posthumous)

Go to www.ct.gov/ctva for full listing
of all Inductees of Hall of Fame



Veterans Hall of Fame Induction of Class of 2010

Joined by leaders of the state's veterans' community, Governor Rell formally inducted the Class of 2010 during a public ceremony in the Atrium of the Legislative Office Building in Hartford on February 22, 2010. At the ceremony, Governor Rell presented each honoree or family representative with an official, numbered commemorative medallion recognizing their formal induction into this select group. "These men and women are truly community heroes," Governor Rell said during the ceremony. "They represent the finest values we hope to emulate ourselves – and wish to encourage in our children. They are selfless; they are dedicated; they are courageous, kind and caring. They have served our nation in our Armed Forces – and for that alone they deserve our eternal gratitude – but this Hall of Fame is designed to recognize those whose service has continued well beyond their years in uniform. "These individuals not only answered the call of their nation, they have answered the call of their communities," the Governor said. "It is what they have done beyond their military service that truly sets them apart as individuals worthy of this special honor. The example they have set, the courage they have shown and the public service they have given is most worthy of the respect and admiration of all Connecticut citizens."



Front (l-r) E. Burke, T. Burke, J. Carcioppolo, R. Hunt, Jr., D. Lippman
Back (l-r) W. McGurk, R. Moeller, Gov. Rell, A. Oakes, III,
Comm. Schwartz, E. Sabotka, R. Simmons, A. Zebzda, Gen. Martin