

HOME FOR THE HEROES

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**Serving
Those
Who Served**



From the desk of

COMMISSIONER LINDA SCHWARTZ

Last year was an exciting time for our agency and we look forward to 2006 and the major plans we have in place. 2005 saw the establishment of the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame and the induction of its first ten members. A photo gallery of the induction ceremony and information about the hall can be found on pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter.

The new year will see the beginning of a major construction project at our Veterans' Home in Rocky Hill. Not since 1940 has a project of this nature and size been planned. In addition, another project will upgrade one area of our water system that has caused major problems in the past. Information about those projects can be found on page 6 of this month's newsletter.

Another article, on page 3, will give you information about a special event we will be hosting at our facility next month. It will bring together female veterans from all over the state of Connecticut.

Veterans' Home residents celebrate

HALLOWEEN!

Our veterans and staff celebrated Halloween with a costume party and parade with costumes, many of which were home made. Prizes were awarded in several categories including most creative, most original and funniest. Appropriate music was played as each contestant passed the judges reviewing stand. This annual event has become a popular celebration for our residents and staff members.



Photographs by Charlotte Storey of the Veterans' Home staff.

CONNECTICUT WOMEN'S VETERANS ANNUAL REUNION

ATTENTION FEMALE VETERANS
SAVE THIS DATE

FRIDAY, MARCH 17TH 10AM
VETERANS' HOME IN ROCKY HILL

2006 marks the return of a tradition of an annual event to honor Connecticut women veterans for their service to our nation. Currently, 14,500 women living in our state have served in the military. The reunion will provide information about veteran's benefits including special health concerns, post deployment programs, healthy living and the VA Women Veterans Health Clinic in West Haven. Because so many women now serve in the National Guard and Reserves, there will be a special focus on outreach programs for them. We are working with the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, VA Connecticut and the Connecticut National Guard to provide the most up to date information for our women veterans at the event.



The featured speaker will be Wilma L. Vaught, Brigadier General, US Air Force (retired) who led the campaign to raise \$20 million for the Women In Military Service American Memorial which stands in the main gateway at Arlington National Cemetery.

Reservations may be made by calling 1-866-9CTVETS(928-8387), Ext. 5939 or (860) 721-5939.

VETERANS



2005 marked the establishment of the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame. It was proposed by Governor M. Jodi Rell to recognize Connecticut veterans for their service to their country and, after leaving the military, their service to their community. Ten veterans will be selected every year and inducted into the hall. More than 100 veterans were nominated by their families, friends or co-workers last year and a special committee selected those to be inducted.



HALL OF FAME

The first ten inductees into the Veterans Hall of Fame were former President George Bush of Greenwich, Nathan Agostinelli of Manchester, William Coffey, Sr. of Plainville, Randall Collins of Waterford, Lt. Colonel Bruce Ey of Wethersfield (posthumously), Joseph Lombardo of Middlefield, Jack Mordente 111 of Branford, Dr. James Peters of Storrs, Lt. Ernest Planz of Gales Ferry and Norman VanCor of Harwinton. The induction ceremony took place at the State Capitol in the Hall of Flags. Nomination packets for this year's induction will be available in April and may be obtained by calling (860) 721-5939.



Veterans' Home residents look forward to

NEW HEALTHCARE FACILITY!

The first new construction in sixty-five years will begin later this year at our Rocky Hill facility. A new Healthcare Facility will be constructed to meet the medical and physical needs of our residents. The cost of the project is \$31,230,000 with the federal government putting up 65% of the cost and the state providing the remaining 35%. Construction bids will be opened later this month and the low bidder will be determined. After the federal government approves the final paperwork in March, ground breaking will take place in June. The project is scheduled to be completed by December 2006 or early January 2007.

The facility will be a two-story structure with five wards, each containing 25 beds. Each ward will have five individual rooms and ten two patient rooms. Each ward will have two lounges and a area in which to play cards. The building will have central heating and air conditioning. The current Healthcare Facility has window mounted air conditioning units.

Included in the new building will be a chapel, canteen, library, barber shop, a beautiful main dining room with a gas fireplace and every resident will have their own, personal mail box in the mail room. The last time a new building was constructed on our property was in 1940 when our current Veterans' Home opened its doors for the first time.

In the past several years, we have had several major water main breaks at our facility because of their age and condition. This year, another project underway will provide our facility with a new water loop distribution system. As with the Healthcare Facility project, the federal government will provide 65% of the project's \$4,600,000 cost and the state will pay the remaining 35%. After the feds approve the final low bid in the spring, the contract will be awarded and the project will begin early to mid summer. It will be completed by the summer of 2007.

Residents enjoy visit from **THE USO!**



World War II residents at our Veterans' Home recently had the chance to enjoy some of their more pleasant memories during their wartime service.

The USO Troupe of Metropolitan New York paid a visit to entertain our residents with songs from the 1940s and performed in uniforms and clothing worn during that era. The USO was established in 1941 to entertain American troops around the world. Its most famous alumnus is Bob Hope.



Photographs by Veterans' Home resident Cleveland Bryant

Directions:

From 91N:

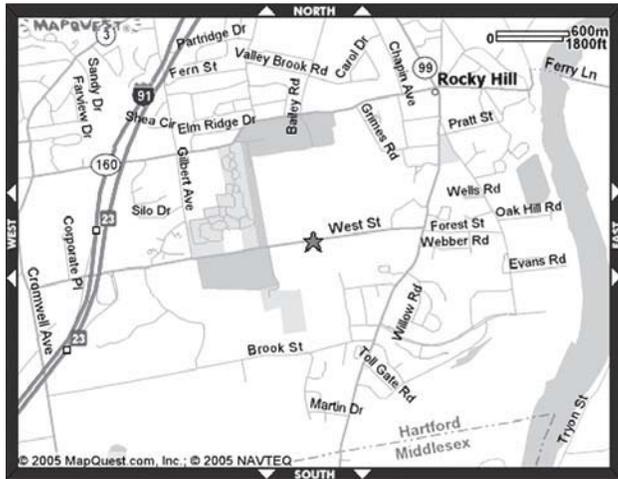
Exit 23, right at end of ramp, take left at 3rd traffic light to enter our facility.

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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